Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-213 *3 November 1995*

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Rabin Addresses Jerusalem Business Conference

TA2910090795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin opened the Jerusalem Business Conference last night. The conference is being attended by about 4,000 delegates from around the world, and the guest of honor is U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown. Manufacturers' Association President Dan Propper expressed his regret that the event was scheduled at the same time as the Amman economic summit.

Addressing the opening of the conference at the Jerusalem Convention Center, Prime Minister Rabin was heckled by right-wing activists in the audience. This was his reaction.

[Begin Rabin recording] Let's get rid of them; they are not important. I appreciate very much the way that the mayor tries to keep the unity of Jerusalem for all the citizens of Jerusalem, regardless of their religion, knowing that Jerusalem is united under Israel's sovereignty and the capital of Israel forever. [applause and heckling] Don't pay attention to them. Who cares about you? Who cares about you?

We are determined to go on with our policy. We will go and will prove to ourselves, to our people, to the people of the Middle East that there is another way that life of all the peoples will be here in the region, that peace is not only a dream, it can be a reality. On one hand, to do peace with those who want peace, to fight terrorism to the end, to oppose extremism on our side regardless of their piping or shouting. Who cares about it. [end recording]

At last night's opening session, Israel and the United States signed a draft of the $150 million deal to build a private electricity plant in the Negev, which will run on shale. Meanwhile, Jerusalem economic conference Chairman Sha'ul Eisenberg leaves today for Amman to sign an economic agreement with Jordan that will total a joint investment of some $50 million in the Dead Sea.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 29 October in a page A4 report by Judy Maltz adds that conference organizers claim that "all the Arab delegations that were scheduled to participate in the Jerusalem conference decided to boycott it at the request of the Egyptian trade minister." Among those who had intended to attend were delegations from Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunis. The organizers said the Jordanian housing minister may come and a Palestinian delegation, headed by Economic Minister Ahmad Quray', intends to participate.]

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 29 Oct

NC0311081595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 29 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Journalists Stage Sit-In, Protest Press Law
2. Al-Azhar Condemns U.S. Congress Bill To Move U.S. Embassy
3. U.S. Based Human Rights Group Denounces Egyptian State Terrorism
4. Cairo University Students Stage Demonstration
5. Attempt To Assassinate Labor Party Candidate Aborted
6. Labor Party Leader Views Elections
7. Labor Party Candidate Explains Program
8. Scholars View Amman Economic Summit
9. Former Police General Addresses Letter to Interior Minister

JOURNALISTS STAGE SIT-IN, PROTEST PRESS LAW

In a 500-word report on page one, Qutb al-'Arabi notes that hundreds of journalists staged a sit-in at their syndicate to protest the trial of AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Husayn according to the "suspicious" law 93, the "abduction" of colleague Salah 'Abd-al- Maqsud from Cairo airport, his interrogation by the military prosecution, and trying him by the military judiciary. They declared their rejection of trying journalists by the military judiciary in line with the Constitution, which stipulates that a citizen has a right to be tried by ordinary courts. They said journalists must not be tried by military courts "in order not to involve the armed forces in political conflicts among parties." They declared their adherence to the decisions passed by their general assembly and their rejection of law 93 of 1995 and their insistence on repealing it.

"Tomorrow's Journalists" issued a statement denouncing the trial of their two colleagues and stressing that this "aggression is a new link in the chain of the state's terrorism against journalists before the elections," which shows the ruling party's insistence on domination. The statement said that the experience of the past four months has shown that law 93 was passed so it could be implemented whenever the government wants to "terrorize its political adversaries," among the journalists, and "liquidate" them, particularly the journalists who strongly oppose the state's policy and corruption.

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AL-AZHAR CONDEMNS U.S. CONGRESS BILL TO MOVE U.S. EMBASSY

A 300-word report on page one notes al-Azhar released a statement condemning the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

U.S. BASED HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP DENOUNCES EGYPTIAN STATE TERRORISM

A 200-word unattributed report on page 1 says that the U.S. based International Society for Human Rights called for an international trial of the Egyptian Government because of state terrorism against opponents, the continuing imposition of the emergency law, and trial of civilians by military courts. The society says it is preparing a whole file on human rights violations in Egypt to present to all human rights organizations in the world. It calls on all human rights activists, political scientists, and university professors to contribute to a study on state terrorism.

CAIRO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS STAGE DEMONSTRATION

A 350-word unattributed report on page 1 notes that the Science College students at Cairo University staged a demonstration on 26 October to express their indignation at and rejection of the "policy of persecution" pursued by the university administration against them. This policy was represented by the striking out of the names of 300 student supporters of the Islamic trend who ran for the student union elections. The report says that a delegation of students presented a protest memorandum to the dean, calling for repealing the decision to strike out the names of the Islamist students. The report notes that the university guards have been placed on maximum alert and that dozens of security vehicles have been parked continually around the university since the students began their demonstrations two weeks ago.

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE LABOR PARTY CANDIDATE ABORTED

A 120-word unattributed report on page 1 refers to a serious development in the "acts of thuggery covered up by the executive agencies," led by the ruling party, with the assassination attempt against Muhammad Salim al-Hajj 'Arabi, Labor Party candidate for the al-Duqqi constituency in Cairo, early on 27 October. 'Arabi escaped miraculously. At midnight on Thursday a caller invited him to a discussion of a serious problem concerning the people in his area. The caller said the meeting would be held in front of the 'Ali Bin- Abi-Talib Mosque. When he approached the scene, a white Peugeot car that had been parked nearby sped toward him, but he managed to throw himself onto the sidewalk. He suffered contusions and bruises.

LABOR PARTY LEADER VIEWS ELECTIONS

In an approximately 1,600 word article entitled: "The Political Reform of the Election By-Laws Began in Shirbin," on pages 1 and 2, Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri discusses elections in Egypt since early in this century and his running for elections during the past few decades. Noting that he went to say the Friday prayer in the grand mosque in his constituency in Shirbin on 27 October, he says that the theme of the Friday sermon was Jerusalem, the perils surrounding it, and the duty of Egypt, the Arab and the Islamic world "to ward off covetous Zionist ambitions in the holy city." The preacher repeatedly emphasized that Jerusalem is the Muslims' First Qibla and will remain a capital of Arab Palestine.

Shukri stressed that he began his efforts by explaining the Labor Party's decision that running for the upcoming People's Assembly elections must be linked to a "lofty value," which, among others, has always been a common denominator for winning the confidence of the sons of this constituency. After reviewing the history of parliamentary elections and programs, he urges those who will run in the elections as representatives of the Islamic trend and of the opposition in general to bear in mind that the "people's hopes hinge on the results of the upcoming elections." He exhorts voters to choose the best and not to heed any fleeting temptations. He says that anyone who wins the confidence of a constituency must realize that it is "a great responsibility for which he will be called to account before God."

LABOR PARTY CANDIDATE EXPLAINS PROGRAM

In a 1,200-word report on page 2 Hasanayn al-Sabbagh reports on Labor Party candidate 'Abd-al-Hamid Barakat's election rally in Imbabah. Barakat claims that the government spends half its huge budget on contractors, enabling the rich to become richer and the poor poorer. He says that the contractors and the People' Assembly members who supervise projects in the governorates seek personal interests first and foremost. Enumerating the problems and lack of services that the people suffer, Barakat says that our problems will only be solved when "pious people who uphold the motto Islam is the solution" are elected.

He stresses that the People's Assembly member's duty is to participate in enacting laws. He says that even though the Constitution amended in 1980 stipulates that the Islamic shari'ah is the main source of legislation, many laws that run counter to the shari'ah have been

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enacted and ratified. He refers to the laws that enabled the ruling party to win the majority in the elections as examples. He stresses that the previous elections in 1987 were rigged and hopes that this time the elections will be free because the results will be tallied at police stations. Also the youths are now conscious of their responsibilities toward their religion and homeland.

SCHOLARS VIEW AMMAN ECONOMIC SUMMIT

In an approximately 4,000-word report on page 3, Najwa 'Abd-al- Hamid details the views of major Egyptian scholars on the Amman Economic Summit. Labor Party deputy leader Dr. 'Abd-al-Halim Murad says that the establishment of any joint projects with Israel first "requires the establishment of a permanent and fair peace" and not just an agreement on the principles of withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. Israel, he recalls, still occupies the Golan and south Lebanon, a matter that does not create confidence and safety for financiers and investors. He notes the fact that certain Arab countries' are rushing toward unilateral agreements with Israel "must not prompt us to establish economic cooperation with Israel while it still upholds the motto from the Nile to the Euphrates," keeps weapons of mass destruction, and refuses to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Murad argues that economic and financial cooperation between Egypt and Israel requires thorough study by all segments of society so that we will not carry out projects that do not achieve our national interests. He warns against the Israeli plan to lay pipes to transfer Egyptian gas to Israel, because Egypt's oil will be exhausted in 10 years. He says Egypt must avoid having to import gas with hard currency in the future. The U.S. and European attempts to lure Egypt with a Middle East Bank in Cairo, loans, and grants are "bribes" that should not make us forget that the Western nations will be more sympathetic toward Israel at the expense of the entire Arab region. This, he maintains, does not mean that we reject understanding. Israel must show good intentions, he argues and adds that despite the passage of a whole year since the Casablanca Conference, the Israeli stance has not changed.

Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Shami, chairman of the Labor Party's Economic Committee, says that the Middle East Market is a "sly Israeli attempt" to foil the Arab Common Market. He argues that the so-called economic cooperation and the investment of Arab petrodollars is a new form to fulfill the dream of a greater Israel. Israel's stance at the Casablanca conference "exposed its intentions to dominate the economy of the Arab region," he claims. He maintains that the Amman Economic Summit is an attempt to "humiliate" Egypt. It aims to "enable Jordanians and Palestinians to act on the Jews' behalf in running the economies of the region." He says they believe that they can "use" Jordan and Palestine to reach the Gulf's money and keep Egypt in the shadows until its role is finished.

Egyptian policy must seek to "frustrate" Israel's attempt to penetrate the region, noting that Egypt's official policy is "shackled" by the peace treaty and the World Bank and the IMF. He stresses that Egypt's policy "does not reach the point of treason." He claims that Egypt stipulates a comprehensive peace as a "tactical solution to avoid embarrassment." Israel, he says, realizes this and tries to make tactical gains from Egypt's position. He stresses that the Egyptian stand must be firmer. Arguing that the Casablanca Conference ushered in the start of Israeli "penetration of the Arab region" through cooperation between certain Arab and Israeli businessmen, he claims that the Amman summit is intended to give an official form to the cooperation by establishing investment banks and institutions.

AL-SHA'B journalist Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Masiri asserts that the Middle East Market is "totally rejected" and the "alternative is Arab cooperation." He claims that Arab governments are regional and rule according to their "narrow interests and have no future vision of the region." He says that despite this we must not "give in" to the Middle East Market idea, which aims to keep the Arabs divided into small countries led by families lacking national, pan-Arab, and forward-looking vision. The Middle East Market, he argues, will not solve the basic problem of Egyptian society — being unproductive. He considers what is happening as a dark era in the nation's history. As a solution he proposes that the national, pan-Arab, and Islamic fronts unite and come up with a pan-Arab Islamic plan capable of motivating the masses. He believes that there is no hope as long as the current state of affairs continues, adding that hope hinges on a new framework bringing rulers who have vision for the region's development. He says: "If we view Israel as a U.S. bayonet, we will realize that the real confrontation is with Western civilization, which fears Islam in this region."

AL-AHRAM columnist Salamah Ahmad Salamah wonders if we can cross the bridge before reaching it. He affirms that "full peace must first be achieved on all tracks before any talk about possibly establishing genuine regional economic cooperation." Stressing that it is not true that boosting economic cooperation between Israel and the Arab countries will push the train of peace forward, he says this is a U.S.-Israeli-European view. These countries seek to make Israel and its economic integration into the region a pressure point in the ne-

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gotiating process. "Regrettably," he says, certain Arab countries, such as Jordan and others, rushed to peace and normalization of ties with Israel without taking into consideration common Arab interests. He said the lack of coordination among the Arab countries is even worse. He says that while Israel knows its specific goals, the Arab countries have no common goals. He maintains that while the Amman Summit will be no more than an arena for each party to define its plans and goals, implementing these plans will take a long time. He stresses that we "must not leave matters in the hands of Israel and the United States" and must play our role in working out the directions of the conference.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Ghazali, economics professor at Cairo University, notes that the Amman document benefits Israel and harms the Arabs. He hopes that Jewish arrogance will motivate the billion slumbering Muslims to seek real integration. He states that foreign parties are drawing up plans for the region for purposes that have nothing to do with its interests. He argues that the era of major blocs, notably unified Europe, should give the incentive to inject life into the so-called the Common Arab Market and the hope for the common Islamic market. He says that the Middle East Market is part of a plan by the Zionist entity to dominate the region politically and economically in the future. He says that all the Arab regimes are doing about this plan is to say that they must not consider normalization of ties and economic cooperation until after peace or "capitulation" has been achieved with the "Zionist entity."

According to journalist Sa'd-al-Din Wahbah Israel's view of peace "means to become part of the fabric of the Middle East." The Israeli security concept now is that the geographic borders no longer provide a security buffer. Real security is to become "a member of a larger regional bloc to achieve economic hegemony after military hegemony has become too costly." Jews have more advanced technology and are masters of business, so it is not surprising that Israel's long-term goal is to become the Singapore or Hong Kong of the Middle East. It seeks to exploit the enormous petrodollars and cheap labor of Egypt, Palestine, and Jordan to achieve its goal.

AL-AHRAM economic correspondent Usmah Ghayth believes that the real problem lies in Israel's desire to achieve economic normalization of ties in the region before political normalization, which is not possible. He says that any normalization will take a long time and effort, particularly because the Palestinian issue is still far from real agreement to establish a Palestinian state. He notes that the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations focus on marginal issues and leave the substantive ones for the future. Thus, he argues, any talk of regional economic projects and cooperation is "premature."

Ahmad al-Najjar, an expert in the Political and Strategic Studies Center, says that the Amman Economic Summit is an attempt "to complete what began at the Casablanca Conference" to end the Arab boycott of Israel and incorporate it into the regional economic dealings. He says that Israel's ambitions are not ordinary and that it was established on a part of the Arab homeland through aggression. Due to their weakness, the Arabs made a historic concession to accept Israel. He maintains that this situation must not make us offer our markets and funds to Israel, as the Amman Economic Summit seeks to do.

FORMER POLICE GENERAL ADDRESSES LETTER TO INTERIOR MINISTER

In a 1,000-word "Open Letter" to Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, on page 5, former police Lieutenant General Kamal Hafiz stresses that from experience and close association with interior ministers, he is shocked because they believe that "the regime's security precedes the homeland's security" and that some even believed the regime and the homeland were one entity. He argues that this conviction has generated all the torment, corruption, and oppression prevailing in Egypt.

He maintains that the previous elections were rigged and that is why the people shun the "ill-famed" ballots. Since the government rigs things, he says, it is only natural for the citizens to break the law. He notes that the People's Assembly passed the press law, which the whole nation has been opposed. So, who does this assembly represent? He concedes that the pressure is enormous, that high posts are esteemed, and that the instructions are clear — many will lose their jobs if the ruling National Democratic Party does not win the elections.

He argues that when the regime resisted changes, which are a normal development, it turned the homeland into "fertile soil" for violence. He maintains that he is against violence but the government should consider its causes. The authorities ignore the fact that violence was born and thrived in the land of corruption, rigging, subservience, and unemployment. He says that the "crime of resisting peaceful change" is being tried in the "same court" as the terrorism and violence in choosing representatives of the people. The start is not promising, he says, because the arrest of the Muslim Brothers and Labor Party members may lead to grave consequences.

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Palestinian Affairs

PLO Washington Mission Chief on Closure Order

JN0211115895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahman, chief of the PLO mission in Washington, by Fathi al-Barqawi in the studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Barqawi] Good morning, brother Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahman.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Good morning.

[Al-Barqawi] Agencies carried bad news from Washington this morning. Can you give us details?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Yes, 30 minutes ago, I received a telephone call from the U.S. State Department asking that the PLO mission in Washington suspends work because the duration of the law by which the PLO was allowed to establish a mission in Washington has expired—a law under which President Clinton was permitted to establish relations with the PLO. The permission was granted to President Clinton temporarily and it expired last night.

Now there are negotiations on the highest level between President Clinton and the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to reach agreement on this subject.

In our view, one of the reasons—in addition of course to the domestic policy considerations—which prompted the Congress to act in such a way, is the intimate relationship that exists between the Republican right, which is now leading the Congress, and the Israeli right. The aim is to hamper and harm the peace process.

[Al-Barqawi] What is the secret behind the U.S. action particularly after the decision to transfer the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem was made?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Let us say that this is the Congress's and not the Administration's policy. Let us be very precise in this matter. The Administration does not agree with the Congress on either the embassy transfer or the laws pertaining to the PLO and its activities in the United States. The reason for the Congressional stand of course is the intimate relationship between the Jewish right in the United States, the Israeli right, and the right of the Republican Party, which is leading the Congress. Moreover, there are differences between the Democrat, President Clinton, and the Republican Congress.

[Al-Barqawi] Don't you believe that the peace process will be affected by this decision, especially since the United States is one of the sponsors of the peace process?

['Abd-al-Rahman] I have no doubt that the peace process will be harmed. I believe that those who are behind this suspension [of the PLO mission work] aim to harm the peace process. Senator Helms and other senators and representatives aim to harm the peace process.

[Al-Barqawi] Therefore, you agree with me that the Israeli right has succeeded in winning over the Congress?

['Abd-al-Rahman] What is going on in the Congress is perfectly in line with the stand of the Israeli right. It is no coincidence that such a measure is taken in the Congress. This is the first time that the Congress has rejected the president's request for extension. This has taken place during Netanyahu's presence in the United States and his activity and the activities of his colleagues, such as Zalman Shuval and others, in the Congress.

This indicates that the Jewish establishment in the United States continues to be greatly in harmony with the Israeli right. By undertaking such action, the Congress members are seeking the Jewish money and votes in the United States, given that the presidential and congressional election campaigns are coming up.

[Al-Barqawi] In response to this decision, what steps can we expect from the PLO or the Palestinian National Authority?

['Abd-al-Rahman] We can now say that the battle in the Congress is mainly between the President and the Congress, especially on this issue, because President Clinton is defending his right to formulate the U.S. foreign policy, and his rights concerning many U.S. domestic policies. Therefore, we cannot do much now in the battle which has gone too far between President Clinton's Administration and the Congress led by the Republican Party, especially Senator Robert Dole and Senator Jessy Helms.

[Al-Barqawi] Thank you, brother Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahman and good morning from Palestine.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Thank You, and a very good morning for our people.

Quray': Closure 'Very Regrettable'

JN0211142695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0520 GMT 2 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', chief Palestinian negotiator, by Fathi al-Barqawi in the studio; place not given; from the "A New Day" news feature—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Barqawi] I am going to give you the latest news I have

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heard. We will soon contact Hasan 'Abd-al- Rahman, the PLO mission head in Washington. The U.S. State Department has asked him to close down the mission.

[Quray'] Is that true?

[Al-Barqawi] Absolutely.

[Quray'] This is very serious news and an irresponsible U.S. stand.

[Al-Barqawi] This happened after the U.S. Congressional intervention.

[Quray'] Very regrettable. Coming as it does from the sponsor of the peace process, this will not help this process.

[Al-Barqawi] You are aware that Netanyahu has been there for some time and has been working painstakingly for this.

[Quray'] This is a very disturbing problem. It is very regrettable that the United States should take action in advance and judge the final status negotiations.

[Al-Barqawi] We will have more details soon when we contact Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahman. Thank You Abu-'Ala' [Quray'].

[Quray'] Thank you.

Official Criticizes Embassy, Office Decisions

JN0211164195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1240 GMT 2 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, at the Presidency in Gaza, by Yusuf al-Qazzaz, in the studio; from the "Today's Events" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Qazzaz] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah: You made statements today representing the positions of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] on the U.S. Congress' decisions against the PLO and Jerusalem.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Yes, indeed. The U.S. Congress position is unacceptable and it does not support the peace process at all. In the meeting with President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] on the sidelines of the celebrations of the UN's 50th anniversary, President Clinton, who represents the U.S. Administration, asserted to President Abu-'Ammar that he supports the peace process and the continued Palestinian efforts.

The U.S. Congress' position is not only provocative for the Arab World but also for the Islamic nation. It also violates the UN General Assembly [UNGA] resolutions which stipulate that Jerusalem is an occupied city to which Resolution 242 applies. This resolution considers Arab East Jerusalem as part of the occupied Palestinian territories, so what applies to other Arab territories also applies to Jerusalem.

[Al-Qazzaz] Regarding the status of the PLO Office in Washington, have there been any developments?

[Abu-Rudaynah] The U.S. Administration last night contacted the PNA and discussed the talks it held with the U.S. Congress in this regard. As you know, however, we are linked to the United States by the U.S. letter of assurances which basically stipulates that Jerusalem is an occupied city. This does not permit any demographic changes in the holy city.

Regarding the U.S. Congress' decision on transferring the U.S. Embassy or the new decisions made at dawn today, we believe that these decisions do not serve the peace process at all and are unnecessary.

As we have been informed, these decisions are part of the U.S. internal election campaign, so not only the PNA is affected; there are a group of decisions not yet agreed upon by both the Congress and the U.S. Administration.

As far as we are concerned, we consider the mere issuance of these two successive decisions by the Congress as a position that harms the peace process. This is not a cordial position toward the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

As you know, President Abu-'Ammar held an important meeting in Amman in the presence of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab foreign ministers, and Moroccan Prime Minister Filali. Represented in this meeting were the Arab states, the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] Secretariat, and Morocco in its capacity as chairman of the OIC and head of the Jerusalem Committee.

In this important meeting, held at President Abu-'Ammar's headquarters in Amman, the attendees agreed on a group of Arab and Islamic measures and on other measures on the UNGA level. The Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims will not accept the U.S. Congress provocation against the Arab and Islamic nation and against the resolutions of international legitimacy.

[Al-Qazzaz] Regarding the PLO Office in Washington, no official U.S. decision has thus far been made to close this office.

[Abu-Rudaynah] In fact, we were informed last night that the office is considered closed as of this morning. What we would like to say, however, is that everyone should know that what links us to the United States is the fact that the Congress permitted the U.S. Administration to hold dialogue with the PLO for six months which can be extended for six more months.

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The six-month period expired yesterday, 1 November. As I told you, there are conflicts between the Congress and the U.S. Administration over many U.S. plans, including the extension of the dialogue with the PLO. Hence, the old decision has applied to the PLO Office and to the aid extended to Palestinians.

However, we were promised that serious efforts will be undertaken to end this situation, which, we expect, will not last more than a few days. [passage omitted]

Sha'th Reacts to Gaza Attacks, Office Closure

JN0211151095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, in Amman, by Fathi al-Barqawi, in the studio; from the "A New Day" news feature—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Barqawi] Good morning, Dr. Sha'th.

[Sha'th] Good morning.

[Al-Barqawi] I have two news items. First, two booby-trapped cars exploded near Kissufim in the Gaza Strip this morning, and there were a number of casualties. Can you comment?

[Sha'th] We are working painstakingly to free the peace process of any violence. The Palestinian Authority has done everything possible to realize this goal. However, regrettably, operations of killing and assassination engender other operations of killing and assassination; a circle of violence began with the assassination of Dr. al-Shaqaqi. We hope that this circle will stop so that the peace process will not be harmed and because we are trying to implement this process for the benefit of the Palestinian people.

[Al-Barqawi] Another news item was received this morning. The U.S. Congress last night decided to close down the PLO mission in Washington.

[Sha'th] They decided what?

[Al-Barqawi] They decided to close down the PLO office in Washington. We want your reaction.

[Sha'th] The U.S. Congress is very strange. This is supposed to be the U.S. people's representative. How can we imagine a handful of senators and representatives controlling the Congress and working to realize the narrow goals of candidates for the coming elections? Some are panting after extremist Jewish votes, running after rightist Israeli organizations which aim to deal a blow to the peace process. This is a very strange attitude from a state which has the primary responsibility in the world. [passage omitted]

'Arafat 'Rejects' U.S. Embassy Move

BR0211152495 Madrid LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 30 Oct 95 p 6

[Interview with PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Henrique Cymerman in Gaza; date not given: "'Arafat: By Moving Its Embassy to Jerusalem the United States Is Sabotaging the Peace Process" — first paragraph is LA VANGUARDIA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — Speaking at the headquarters of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA] in Gaza, its chairman, Yasir 'Arafat, told LA VANGUARDIA: "I believe that the Palestinian Authority will soon become an independent state. This could come about within two years. According to the agreement with Israel, the final status will have to be negotiated as soon as possible and no later than the third year of autonomy. Under no circumstances later than the third year. This means that we will have to begin negotiations on 4 May of next year."

[Cymerman] The timetable for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations clashes with the Israeli election campaign.

['Arafat] Perhaps political circumstances are a little difficult for our Israeli interlocutors these days since they are currently busy with their election campaign, but we will nevertheless begin discussions on the definitive status.

[Cymerman] The Israeli Government is officially opposed to a Palestinian state and perhaps in return it would accept some kind of ties between Palestine and Jordan. Do you think that despite this, you will manage to found a sovereign state within a short period of time?

['Arafat] I have no doubt. The Palestinian state is already taking shape. For your information, we have adopted a decision in our parliament saying that we are prepared to establish confederal relations with Jordan. Let me stress that these would be confederal relations between the Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Palestine or between two independent states, in accordance with the free choice of both peoples.

[Cymerman] This week will see a start to the historic withdrawal of the Israelis from the West Bank in Jenin. Is there some kind of problem with the withdrawal of the Tsahal [expansion unknown] from the Palestinian cities?

['Arafat] The Israeli withdrawal is still going slowly. The Israelis are wavering in the implementation of the agreement. However, I think that at the end of the day

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they will withdraw from all the cities, including Hebron, which will enjoy a special status.

[Cymerman] What is your opinion on the U.S. Congress resolution to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in 1999?

['Arafat] That is a complete and utter violation of the resolutions of the United Nations, the Security Council, and the General Assembly. I cannot understand how they are celebrating the 50th birthday of the United Nations while at the same time violating international resolutions. It is an example of the U.S. Congress humiliating the UN General Assembly. The United States must remember that we have a letter of guarantee from its administration regarding Jerusalem that was delivered to us and signed by Secretary of State James Baker. According to this letter the status and situation of Jerusalem will be debated in the future in final negotiations, during the final stage. It is not just a violation of the principles of the United Nations and the American letter of guarantee, but it is also an attempt by Congress to sabotage the peace process. We reject it completely.

[Cymerman] Are you going to visit the city of Bethlehem on Christmas Day?

['Arafat] Visit? This Christmas, for the first time, Bethlehem will be flying a Palestinian flag and all of our European friends are invited. The upcoming Christmas celebrations will be historic. The city council and myself are organizing a series of cultural and religious ceremonies to go with my visit. We are also preparing a program in which we are expecting millions of tourists to celebrate the second millennium of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. We have already contacted the Pope and the Latin Patriarch, the orthodox Christians, the Egyptian Copts, and other Christian sectors in order to give this celebration an international religious and cultural flavor.

[Cymerman] What role are the Palestinian representatives thinking of playing at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference in Barcelona?

['Arafat] We will most certainly be there and I would like to have a chance to be there myself. We have great expectations for this conference because the EU, led by Spain, is making great efforts to help the Mediterranean countries. We should not forget that, according to the Palestinians, the Europeans have a crucial role to play in this region and in the peace process. They are working very hard alongside us and are helping us through very tough times. We all live around the Mediterranean.

[Cymerman] You have already negotiated for hundreds of hours with your Israeli enemies of yesterday. Have you changed your opinion about them since you have gotten to know them face to face and so intimately?

['Arafat] We have undoubtedly gotten to know each other better. But in actual fact we knew each other quite well before. This relationship goes back a long way. I was familiar with them individually (read Rabin and Peres in particular) before finding myself face to face with them. Do not forget that we Muslims have lived side by side with Jews and Christians before. The important thing is to move forward together with the peace process. Remember that this peace was signed by brave men who were strong enough to cope with their opposition, just like we are combating our opposition. This is why we call it the peace of the brave.

'Arafat Receives Clinton Message, Saddam Cable

JN0211175095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a friendly message from U.S. President Bill Clinton, who praised President 'Arafat's efforts to achieve peace.

President 'Arafat received U.S. Consul General Edward Abington at noon today. They discussed the latest developments in the peace process.

President 'Arafat also received a telephone call from the U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process, who promised great efforts to contain the impact of the U.S. Congress decision to shut down the PLO office in Washington.

In another development, President 'Arafat received a thank-you cable from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who said: We thank you for your sincere fraternal feelings. We wish you continued good health and happiness. We also hope the struggling Palestinian people will achieve their aspired goals of freedom and independence.

New Jihad Leader Pledges Escalated Struggle

NC0211192895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1753 GMT 2 Nov 95

[Interview with Islamic Jihad movement leader Dr. Ramadan 'Abdallah Shallah by Muhammad Bishkar on 2 November; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Bishkar] Dr. 'Abdallah, will you sum up the course the Jihad movement will take in the stage that follows the martyrdom of great martyr Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi?

[Shallah] The stage can be summed up in a few words: continuing the course Dr. al-Shaqaqi pursued and utilizing the circumstances that resulted from the

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doctor's absence and the blow that was dealt to the movement.

[Bishkar] The Israelis and the Americans have their eyes on the movement right now; they monitor every political move and military and security step it takes. What do you say after the two suicide operations that were carried out against the Israelis in the Gaza Strip today?

[Shallah] The battle between us and the Israelis in particular is open. I have no details and have nothing specific to tell you right now, but anything is possible and expected. They opened a nasty wound in us [Hum Iqtahamu 'Alayna Khandaqan Sa'ban] and they have to bear the consequences.

[Bishkar] At yesterday's funeral you pledged to take harsh revenge on Rabin and the Zionist occupation. Today these two operations were carried out. Can we assume that the Jihad movement's future course will be to escalate anti-Israeli operations?

[Shallah] Certainly.

[Bishkar] In the absence of Dr. Fathi, there will undoubtedly be new political courses the movement and the other factions will take. How will you approach the other factions, be they Islamic or nationalist?

[Shallah] We have always been and still are open to all the Islamic, nationalist, and struggling Arab movements to consolidate efforts and use all energies. This will continue with God's will.

[Bishkar] There have been contacts with the Palestinian Authority to rearrange matters. Will you maintain these contacts?

[Shallah] We had no contact of a political nature with the Palestinian Authority. Contacts had to do with technical matters resulting from blows the Palestinian Authority dealt to us.

For instance, we contacted them to request permission to bury brother Dr. al-Shaqaqi in Gaza. But they could not grant us this.

[Bishkar] Our last question concerns the position of the Islamic Republic [of Iran] on Dr. al-Shaqaqi's assassination. What is this position?

[Shallah] The Islamic Republic's position is honorable. We in Palestine hold that position in esteem and view it as a continuation of the Republic's previous positions that supported the cause and struggle of our people in Palestine. God willing, we will take the road together toward liberating Jerusalem.

[Bishkar] Thank you Dr. Ramadan.

[Shallah] Thank you.

Comments on Movement's Future Plans

LD0211174495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In an interview with a correspondent of the Voice and Vision [radio and television] of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the new secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine [Ramadan 'Abdallah] stressed: By assassinating Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi Israel will not achieve its main objective to stop the intifadah. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent asked the secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine about the movement's future plans.

Dr. Ramadan 'Abdallah replied: Our plans are summed up in one sentence, as they always have: the continuation of jihad, liberation of Palestine, and resisting any compromise until achieving total victory. That is exactly what the late, martyred secretary general of the movement endeavored to achieve which led eventually led to his martyrdom.

Jihad Spokesman on al-Shaqaqi, 'New Battle'

LD0211123695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The representative of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine in Tehran, in an interview with the Central News Unit, has said: Information received indicates that the Zionist regime's secret services, based on a premeditated plan and supported by intelligence supplied by America, assassinated Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

Abu-Jihad Muhammad said the assassination of the secretary general of the the Islamic Jihad movement was one of the results of the signing of the compromise treaty between 'Arafat and the Zionist regime.

He said: With the martyrdom of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, our responsibilities are even graver now and a new battle has started for us in Palestine.

Mosad Called Responsible for al-Shaqaqi 'Crime'

JN0211213395 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a press statement today, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine said that some media organs and enemy quarters have exploited the criminal assassination of leader mujahid Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi to publish fabricated reports on accusations against certain parties of being involved in the crime. The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine denies making

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such allegations and renews its accusation that the Zionist intelligence organs, the Mosad, planned and carried out this hideous crime. The Islamic Jihad also stresses that the movement has no concrete facts to accuse any other party.

The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine is eager to deprive the enemy of any opportunity to cover up its crime through the creation of a state of confusion and fishing in muddy waters.

[Signed] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine

Paper Banned for Linking 'Arafat, al-Shaqaqi Murder

JN0311113395 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has banned the circulation of the Jordanian weekly newspaper AL-BILAD in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. In its latest issue, AL-BILAD accused Yasir 'Arafat of complicity in the assassination of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

According to the Palestinian Information Ministry in Ramallah, the decision to ban AL-BILAD was made because the paper did not obtained a permission [for distribution] and not because it published the article that leveled these accusations against 'Arafat.

Hamas Spokesman: Holy War With Israel To Continue

BR0311123495 Milan IL SOLE-24 ORE in Italian 3 Nov 95 p 3

[Interview with Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Goshen by Ugo Tram; place and date not given; "Hamas Official: Holy War in Israel Will Continue" — first three paragraphs are IL SOLE-24 ORE introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — "Even if Hamas were to come to an agreement with 'Arafat to suspend the armed struggle against Israel, there will always be someone who will continue it, because it is the occupation of Palestine that creates the struggle. This is the equation." Ibrahim Goshen, spokesman for the Palestinian Islamic movement and one of its leaders abroad, seems to leave no room for hope of a truce, to see whether peace works.

On the contrary, the offensive has already resumed. This, even though yesterday's attacks were designed to seek revenge rather than to undermine peace. It is probably the Israeli intelligence services that killed Fathi al-Shaqaqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad, the most highly militarized Palestinian movement, the most extremist, but nevertheless linked to Hamas. "I have no doubt: al- Shaqaqi will be avenged," Goshen stressed, as though to suggest that the real revenge has not yet been perpetrated. He added, however, that it could take place "outside the occupied territories." As far as Hamas is concerned, even Tel Aviv is part of occupied Palestine: "Outside" means abroad. An attack is an attack, wherever it occurs. But if it were not to be carried out in Israel, the political consequences for 'Arafat and the Palestinian authority would be less serious.

Ibrahim Goshen is regarded as a hawk within the Hamas movement, which has several factions. Nevertheless his remarks seem to hint at something different from the past — perhaps a more realistic acknowledgment of the actual situation; perhaps the realization that, as things stand, it is difficult to halt the peace process and that, faced with these difficulties, even the Islamic movement must reappraise its policy. Albeit within Hamas' fundamentalist rationale and language, we can see hints of a quest for compromise. But perhaps this is merely an interpretation. "Military operations carried out by freedom fighters are not against the Oslo agreements but against the occupation," Goshen stressed, pointing out that the war is waged not by Hamas but by its armed wing, Ezz al-Din al- Qassam [Batallions]. "We oppose the peace process by political means; we have always said so."

[Tram] But the start of the second stage of the agreements between Israelis and Palestinians has brought a different atmosphere. Now there is strong support for 'Arafat.

[Goshen] This is a superficial impression. The so-called "Oslo II" does not mention the Palestinian refugees problem, that of Jerusalem and of the Jewish settlements. On the West Bank Israel is returning only 200 square km out of 5,000. For Hamas, there is not withdrawal nor freedom, nor independence.

[Tram] It is in the agreements that these problems must be broached during the next stage of the negotiations.

[Goshen] This is the trap into which 'Arafat has fallen, and he too has realized it. If he accepted the construction of new roads to join the Jewish settlements, it means that he will have to accept settlers in the territories. Of course, there are changes: Israel is to dismantle some settlements. But the future map will not be very different from the present one. They will grant us a little, lowly populated land so that Palestine ends up as part of a Jordanian confederation.

[Tram] Both inside and outside the territories Hamas is apparently split between those who want to take part in the elections, and those who do not.

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[Goshen] Inside and outside Palestine, there is only one Hamas. We have been talking about the elections for two years and we have decided not to take part in them.

[Tram] But support for 'Arafat is growing. Are you not afraid of being excluded from the new Palestinian institutions?

[Goshen] Do you think that not to take part will exclude us from Palestine? The statistics drawn up for the territories are wrong. Just three months ago in the Nabulus university elections 48 percent of votes were for Fatah, 'Arafat's party, and 52 percent for the opposition — us and George Habbash's Popular Front. At least 50 percent of Palestinians are against the peace process.

[Tram] But 'Arafat will win the elections in any case.

[Goshen] I can tell you right now that he will gain 82 percent of the votes. But outside Palestine there are 4 million refugees. America, Europe, and Israel want these elections in order to legitimize 'Arafat.

[Tram] Is it not true that you are negotiating nevertheless?

[Goshen] Some months ago it was 'Arafat who softened his approach to the opposition forces. The proposal was made that we meet in Khartoum, but he has not yet replied to the invitation.

[Tram] President Mubarak seems to want you to meet in Cairo.

[Goshen] We are prepared to meet with 'Arafat in Egypt, Jordan, or Yemen. But first he must explain his positions to us. We are prepared to discuss everything. The most important thing is to reach an agreement to consolidate Palestinian unity: We must find a formula whereby the Palestinians will not fight among themselves like the Algerians. I do not think that 'Arafat wants us to take part in the elections. We know that he wants a suspension of military operations on the West Bank and in Gaza, but also in Israel. Hamas cannot halt what is a point of principle for the Palestinian people — the holy war.

[Tram] Nevertheless the attacks are not producing any political results.

[Goshen] The operations have not produced results because 50 percent of Palestinians in the territories are in favor of the peace process. But they have had an impact on the Israelis: With every operation, Rabin's power is reduced, and he risks losing his elections next year.

[Tram] By announcing that your objective is to cause the Laborites to lose the elections, are you not afraid that you could bring about the opposite result? From your viewpoint, is the Likud Party not an "easier" enemy?

[Goshen] This is not our aim: We are combating the occupation. But I do realize that Rabin is the most dangerous to Hamas because he has a strategy. The Likud Party has a simpler policy: If it were to win, the Palestinian resistance would be greater.

'Arafat Says Gaza Bombings Harm Peace Process

TA0211151595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat has condemned the bombings that took place in the Gaza Strip this morning, saying they harm the peace process. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that 'Arafat, speaking with reporters in Gaza, said he did not believe the attacks would sabotage the continuation of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the West Bank.

Kanafani Expresses 'Regret' at Gaza Bomb Attack

JN0211154595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, President 'Arafat's adviser and spokesman, expressed regret at the incident in which two cars exploded near the city of Dayr-al-Balah this morning. Eight Israelis were slightly wounded in the incident.

Kanafani said that President 'Arafat earlier warned against such incidents, because they entangle the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

Answering reporters' questions, Kanfani said: History and experience have taught us that the Israelis need no excuses to take measures that might prove to be detrimental to the peace process.

Kanafani called for easing tension in the region in order to press ahead with the implementation of the Oslo B agreement.

Intelligence Chief Blames Israel for Gaza Bombings

TA0211172195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Musa 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Military Intelligence in Gaza, says Israel is responsible for today's bombings in the Gaza Strip. Musa 'Arafat believes the attacks were to be expected in the wake of the al-Shaqaqi assassination. He estimated that the incidence of violent acts will increase and

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that the Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will become more fanatic.

Islamic Jihad Activist Suspect in Gaza Attacks

TA0311090395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Police in the Gaza Strip arrested an Islamic Jihad activist in Jabalyah who was involved in the car bomb attacks in the Qatif Bloc yesterday. The accused, a member of the Qahlut family in Jabalyah, is suspected of buying the two cars and participating in planting the bombs in them.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that so far dozens of Islamic Jihad activists have been detained in all parts of the Gaza Strip within the framework of the investigation into the attacks yesterday. A senior source in the Palestinian Police told our correspondent that the Palestinian Police may today identify the two terrorists who perpetrated the suicide attacks.

Quray' Criticizes Territories Closure by Israel

JN0211152395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Arafat will meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres next week. Ahmad Quray', minister of economy and Trade also known as Abu-'Ala', said the meeting will be extremely important as it will deal with key issues that were not finalized in the Taba agreement, like the area of Jericho.

On another level, Quray' said it is unreasonable for the fate of the peace process to remain hostage to each and every incident that takes place. He said that Israel's swift imposition of siege on the Palestinian territories following each incident is an incorrect measure that does not serve the peace process.

Police Officers Enter Janin, Temporary Offices

JN0211202595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 24 Palestinian police officers, led by Colonel Fayiz 'Arafat, arrived in Janin this afternoon. They received the Israeli police headquarters in the city as a temporary headquarters for them. The residents of Janin welcomed the officers.

Brigadier General Ziyad al-Atrash, official in charge of the Military Liaison Committee, said these vanguards arrived as part of the redeployment in Janin in accordance with the agreement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

Political Preparations for Elections Viewed

TA0211182995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Nov 95 p B2

[Article by Dani Rubinstein: "Give-And-Take Lists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The elections to the Palestinian council on 20 January will not only require a big logistic effort but also hurried political preparations by the parties and candidates. As far as is known today (based on the Taba agreement), voters in the West Bank and Gaza will simultaneously elect the council president ('Arafat's victory is certain) and its 82 members.

The elections will be regional, with each district being allocated a specific number of slots on the council. The elected president — that is, 'Arafat — will choose the executive body (the cabinet ministers) from among the council members, but he may add people from the outside, provided their number does not exceed 20 percent of the cabinet. As a matter of fact, the latter will also be members of the council. Consequently, the number of members in the Palestinian Authority [PA] council will slightly exceed 82.

The big question about the elections is their format: For whom will the public vote — people or parties? The answer to this question is expected within the next few days, depending on the outcome of the negotiations between the PA and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. If Hamas decides to run in the elections as an organized party, Fatah will present its own list of candidates and the elections will be held on a partisan basis (similarly to Israel) but with a breakdown into districts.

This method hardly gives a chance to candidates from small parties. Sixteen voting districts have been set up, and Fatah is expected to beat all other lists in most of them. Hamas stands a chance to win only in Hebron and, perhaps, in two voting districts in Gaza.

The second possibility, which seems more plausible, is that Hamas will not run as an organized party. In that case, elections in each and every district will be held on a personal basis (as is customary in Jordan, for example). Candidates affiliated with Hamas and other movements, as well as independent candidates, will all vie for the same slots allocated to a district.

The national or district leadership of the movements and parties will obviously be able to recommend certain people, but even those who are not recommended will be able to run. Candidates may decide to run together, and parties may do the same. For example, Fatah's recommended candidates could link up with representatives from FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Union

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Party, a breakaway of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP, led by Yasir 'Abd- Rabbuh], while PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] representatives could run on a joint list with the DFLP, and Hamas could run with candidates from the Islamic Jihad.

A look at the feverish political activities in recent days in the Jerusalem area may help us understand this complex situation. The problem in Jerusalem is more complex due to its centrality and the diverse makeup of its population.

The Jerusalem district has been allocated seven seats on the council: six to Muslims and one to a Christian. The population in the district may be divided into several groups: The largest is the group of former Hebronites, who make up half the population of the city and its environs. The second group encompasses the residents of the villages and towns within the city (such as Silwan, Jabal al- Mukabar, Shu'fat, and Bayt Hanina) and its environs (al-'Ayzariyah and Abu-Dis). The third group are the local city residents (such as the venerable al-Husayni, Nusaybah, and Khalidi families). There are also smaller groups, such as members of various Christian denominations, and Bedouin tribes. There is yet another division based on family structure (the big family clans), as well as a political division into movements and organizations.

Fatah leaders in Jerusalem say that if the voting is on a party basis, the list of seven candidates for the Jerusalem district will be determined by the Fatah leadership and that other organizations will do likewise. Voters will then have to vote for a party or organization, and these will have to post candidates acceptable to a variety of sectors.

If that is the case, the Fatah list for the Jerusalem district will actually be determined by 'Arafat. Fatah members who do not accept it will be able to run in a separate party but not as representatives of Fatah, and their chances of being elected will correspond with their public strength. For example, if former Hebronites believe they are not aptly represented on the Fatah list, they could form their own list and perhaps beat the other lists.

If, however, the elections are held on a personal basis — which is more likely — the situation will be more confused. Before examining the list of candidates, we should note those political activists who will not be able or will not want to run.

Restrictions prohibiting residents of East Jerusalem holding Israeli identity cards from running in the elections have actually been removed. According to the agreement, those Palestinians who will want to run will simply have to add another address in the West Bank to their address in Jerusalem. A few thousand East Jerusalem Arabs who have accepted full Israeli citizenship (Israel will not allow them to either vote or be elected) will not be allowed to run, and the PA agreed to this. Although the Palestinian public does not regard them as collaborators, they are considered people who did not uphold their national loyalty. These include a few public functionaries, mainly businessmen, who will have to forgo their candidacy.

Palestinians who will not want to run, even if they want to join the PA and the council, will be those who believe they will be appointed by 'Arafat without having to run. This applies to Abu- Mazin (Mahmud 'Abbas), who is considered a member of Fatah's historical leadership, as well as to members of the PLO Executive, only a few of whom reside in the territories.

A few dozen people will presumably want to be included among Fatah's seven recommended candidates in the Jerusalem district. Seeing that we are talking about personal predilections, the Fatah leadership may recommend a larger number of candidates and leave the choice to the voters.

The most outstanding figure within the Fatah leadership in the Jerusalem district is Faysal al-Husayni, who will probably head the list of candidates recommended by the organization and influence the choice of the other six recommended candidates. He is also seen as a representative of the venerable families in Jerusalem and, together with his colleagues, he will have to choose the candidates from other sectors.

The man with the best chances of becoming Fatah's Christian candidate in the Jerusalem district is Hanna Sinyurah, the former editor of AL-FAJR and the current publisher and editor of THE JERUSALEM TIMES, who filled important positions in the organization in the past. His candidacy is being contested by Dr. Emil Jarju'i, a well-known dentist in the city. There may be other independent candidates, the most prominent being Jonathan Kuttab, a human rights activist who dealt with legal, political, and public issues during the intifadah.

Fatah's list will have to allocate a slot to a woman. She could be Hanan 'Ashrawi, who could run for either Jerusalem or Ramallah, but the Fatah leadership in Jerusalem is more inclined to choose Salwa Hadib, a nurse in the French hospital in al-Shaykh Jarrah and a public affairs activist.

There are four more slots on the list for Jerusalem after choosing al-Husayni, a Christian candidate, and a woman. Fatah's list has no chance of winning if it does

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not include at least two candidates of Hebron origins. This is the main problem of all the political movements seeking to compete in the Jerusalem district. If Fatah does not include popular candidates of Hebron origins on its list, the Hebronites in Jerusalem might vote for Hamas candidates and defeat the Fatah list.

The most prominent candidate to represent the Hebronites in Jerusalem on the Fatah list is Dr. Nabil al-Ja'bari, son of Shaykh Muhammad 'Ali al-Ja'bari, the former mayor of Hebron. He is the president of the Islamic College in Hebron but lives in Jerusalem and was a member of the delegation from the territories to the Madrid Conference. He is not particularly popular among the large Hebronite family clans in Jerusalem, however, and is not involved in the affairs of the Hebronite community in the city.

In this respect, the most popular candidate is Hajj Da'ud Wuzwuz, a prominent businessman whom Hebronites usually ask to arbitrate in business and family feuds. In the last few days, Fatah activists have been checking out with him whether he will agree to be their candidate, but he has not shown too much enthusiasm so far.

Other candidates in the same category are Rajah Abu-'Asab, a house and electric appliances dealer from Salah-al-Din Street; his relative, 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Abu-'Asab, a well-known land dealer; and Hajj Nur Salaymah, a car dealer from Bayt Hanina. Fatah may include a member of the waqf establishment in the city, many of whom are former Hebronites, on its list. The most prominent of them is Hasan Tahbub, the PA's waqf and religious affairs minister.

Young activists in the Fatah establishment in the Jerusalem district hardly stand a chance of being elected. The most prominent of them is Ahmad Ghunaym, the Jerusalem representative of Jibril al- Rujub (head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service in Jericho and the West Bank). He is aided by Bilal al-Natshah, a member of one of the largest and most prominent Hebronite families in the city, but Hebronites are hardly likely to regard him as a fitting candidate to represent them.

A large number of candidates are vying for the remaining two slots allocated to Jerusalem's rural sector. The names cited are those of Ahmad Quray' (Abu-'Ala'), who hails from Abu-Dis and is the main player on the team negotiating with Israel, and Ziyad Abu- Zayyad, an attorney and journalist from al-'Ayzariyah, who probably will not run. PA member Sa'ib 'Urayqat, who is from Abu-Dis, may run either in Jerusalem or in Jericho, his current place of residence.

Likely candidates from Jerusalem's southern precinct include 'Ali al-Ghazlan, an attorney and former head of the West Bank Bar Association, and Hajj 'Abd Abu-Dhiyab from Abu-Tur, who helps al- Husayni with trade union affairs and who headed the Jerusalem District Electric Company trade union, the largest employer in East Jerusalem, for many years. Another candidate mentioned is Dr. Anis al-Qaq from Silwan.

Candidates from the northern precinct may include Dr. 'Ali Hashan, director of the Abu-Dis College (he is from the Shu'fat refugee camp and is close to Faysal al-Husayni), as well as Talal Abu-'Afifa, an attorney who has voiced his desire to run (a former leader of Fatah's al-Shabiba youth movement and who comes from Shu'fat).

Hardly anything is known about the Hamas candidates in the Jerusalem area, and the race will start only after the leadership decides on a course of action with regard to the elections. On the other hand, the picture is clearer with regard to the left wing's possible recommended candidates in Jerusalem.

The candidates who could vie for a possible slot on behalf of the Palestinian People's Party (the former Communist Party), which has already decided to run in the elections, are Ziyad al-Hamuri, member of a well-known Hebronite family in Jerusalem who is very popular in the city's business circles, as well as Hasib al-Nashashibi, a party activist who is currently involved in agricultural economics and comes from one of the oldest and strongest families in Jerusalem.

George Habash's PFLP may present the candidacy of 'Abd-al-Latif Ghayth, a Hebronite considered the main PFLP spokesman in the city, while Nayif Hawatimah's DFLP may present the candidacy of Dr. Muhammad Jadallah, a physician from Bayt Safafa, or that of 'Ali Abu-Hilal from Abu-Dis, a trade union activist. Another name mentioned is that of Hani 'Isawi, one of the most prominent intifadah activists in Jerusalem.

In addition to all these, there is a long list of independent candidates who will not run in any party and whose chances are hard to ascertain. Candidates who are not affiliated with Fatah will have to muster much broader support than that of their immediate political circle — an almost impossible mission.

Zimbabwe Recognizes Palestinian Passport

JN0211210895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Zimbabwean Government recognized the Palestinian passport issued by the National Authority. The Zimbabwean Foreign Ministry

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summoned the Palestinian ambassador in Harare and informed him that it welcomes every Palestinian carrying the new passport.

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Algeria

Zeroual Denies 'Lies' About Candidacy

LD0211212195 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The election campaign has reached its halfway point. Everybody has been following the four candidates who started explaining their platforms several days ago through the various information organs and through their own visits to parts of the country. [passage omitted]

The fourth candidate of the presidential elections, Mr. Liamine Zeroual, chose the town of Tlemcen as the first outing of his election campaign. On this occasion a rally was held. It was attended by people who came from the [neighboring] towns of Sidi-Bel-Abbes and Ain Timouchent. At this rally, candidate Zeroual spoke for two hours and insisted that he is not seeking election to serve a given regime but to serve Algeria.

[Correspondent] I am not the man of the regime; I do not even know this regime. Even those who have been propagating such claims know very well that I am not like that. I am merely a citizen who shouldered [presidential] duties at a very critical juncture out of his conviction that he should fulfil his duties as a citizen. With these words, Mr. Liamine Zeroual addressed the people who came to hear him speaking as candidate for the presidential race at Tlemcen Sports Center.

Mr. Zeroual's speech was comprehensive; it dealt with all the points on his platform which is based primarily on the principles of the glorious November Revolution which gave the Algerian people back its place and its historic and civil recognition. In Zeroual's opinion, the current crisis facing the country was caused by deviations from such principles which derailed the revolution from its true objectives.

[Begin Zeroual recording] When I took up my duties [as president] I did so out my own conviction. I did not do it because I coveted power. Everybody should know this — I did not undertake my duties out of my desire for power and in order to rule this country forever. No, No, No. [applause]

I shouldered my duties, O brothers, because my country called upon me; I did it because I saw the sorry state of affairs facing my country. Today, my candidacy for the presidential election has the same aims; it is out of my eagerness to serve my country. Some people have said that I am the man of the regime and that I am seeking election to serve the interests of certain strata or just to serve my own interests and to be in power. These are lies. Even the people who have been making such claims know every well it is not true. They know it is all lies. [applause]

They know it is not true. I have repeatedly said: [last four words in French] If there is a political system in which I believe and am ready to die for, even at this moment in front of you, it is Algeria and nothing but Algeria. [applause] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Election Broadcast for Sadi Lambasts 'Regime'

LD0211231095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Nov 95

[Election broadcast by Khalida Messaoudi, representative of presidential candidate Said Sadi, leader of the Rally for Culture and Democracy, in Algiers on 2 November — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brothers and sisters: Peace be upon you. We have noticed that these days every [presidential] candidate is trying, himself or through his representatives, to make the citizens understand and to persuade them to elect him on the basis of his platform and his personality. This is quite natural, because this is the first time since independence, that is since 33 years, that the Algerian are going to vote and choose from among four candidates.

This pluralism in the elections constitutes a great democratic gain for the Algerian people. However, this gain is not a gift from the regime, because when the regime was capable of imposing a one party and one candidate election, it did so. [passage omitted]

The Algerian people have gained this pluralism in elections and the freedom of organization and expression as a result of the struggle by the post-independence generations. [passage omitted]

Said Sadi is a struggler who has struggled throughout all the phases of the democratic movement in Algeria. We have to stress a very important point. The point is that a democratic struggler has never resorted to verbal or physical violence against people or institutions; a democratic struggler has never transgressed the sanctity of people or institutions despite the great difficulties, repression, and torture. [passage omitted]

This is all because a democratic struggle distinguishes between the authority which is the regime, and the Algerian state which is l'etat Algerien [last two words in French] The authority may have to go, the Algerian state will always remain. [passage omitted]

Dr. Said Sadi is one of those people, we mean that he is a true democrat and that he is a true struggler, not one who pays lip service to democracy; that is a parachute [last word as heard in French].

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Brothers and sisters: This is the first time since independence that the Algerian people are going to vote to choose from among three social platforms — the republican democratic trend, the fanatical religious platform, and the regime's platform.

The candidate of the authority and the regime says that he does not have a party, and that his sole party is Algeria. With the permission of our brother the regime's candidate, we have to tell him that Algeria is not a party and it could not become a party for any person, because Algeria is above all the parties and Algeria belongs to all the Algerians. With his permission, we also have to tell the candidate of the authority and the regime that he has a party; his party is the regime.

The candidate of the authority and the regime also said that he refuses to discuss the issue of the [country's] social project, because, according to him, the issue was resolved during the liberation revolution — the 1 November revolution of 1954.

Regarding the liberation revolution, as Algerians we are aware that the regime was the first to betray the revolution. When we look at the 1 November 1954 declaration and the Charter of the Soumam conference [1956] we find that the strugglers and administrators said then that thy would struggle to build Algeria as a democratic and social state. [passage omitted]

We are all Algerians who have been born and brought up in our country — we are not living in Switzerland. We know that anyone who dared to call for democracy and freedom would have been taken away, arrested and imprisoned by the regime.

When Dr. Said Sadi was struggling and calling for democracy and the freedom of expression and organization in 1980s, they arrested him and took him away. In 1985, they, the regime, imprisoned Dr. Said Sadi for about three years in the Tazult, Lambese prison. Why? He had not killed, stolen, or destroyed. The only reason was that he had founded a league for the defense of human rights.

Praise be to God, now the regime itself and others are talking about human rights and democracy. This is a very beautiful thing, and Algeria is proud of it and needs it. However, those who have struggled for democracy and freedom are those to whom they [democracy and freedom] belong, and those who have struggled for democracy and freedom are those who are capable of managing them, not the regime which was repressing them.

The 1954 November revolution spoke of justice and equality among citizens. What did the regime do in that respect? We all know that the regime made the country bankrupt. [passage omitted]

These are simple examples which show that the regime has and is still using November 1954 as a trading licence.

As for the fanatical religious trend, we have seen them in Algeria when they wanted to destroy the principles of November and Soumam. We saw them when they went out on demonstrations raising Saudi flags, while hiding Algerian flags. We saw them in municipalities and provinces when they erased "From the People to the People" — "From the People to the People" dates back to the Algerian revolution — they erased that and put in their own slogans. We saw the fanatical religious trend and the terrorists who killed 817 war veterans. We saw them defiling the martyrs' cemeteries. We see them today practicing politics with bombs. We saw them raping girls, killing fathers, and making mothers cry. [passage omitted]

Authorities Receive Reports on Arms Smuggling

JN0311100695 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Nov 95 p 16

[FBIS Translated Text] Algerian authorities have received numerous detailed reports from two major security bodies — one Arab and the other European — on operations to smuggle weapons to Islamists in Algeria through Sudan and southern Libya. The reports say these operations have intensified markedly in recent months to compensate for the loss of the Algerian armed groups' weapons smuggling network in Europe, where cells of these groups are subject to monitoring operations and raids.

FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MS0211132395 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 31 Oct 95

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by Islamic Salvation Front "supporters" in Europe; quotation marks as received — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Editorial

Will the Junta's bull stop before "knocking" the red scarf?

Praise be to Allah, Who Said in relation to Pharaoh's sorcerers: "When they had had their throw, Moses said: "What you have brought is sorcery, Allah Will surely make it of no effect, for Allah Prosper not the work of those who make mischief."[Koran surat Yunus,10:81]

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Once more, the "silly" Junta "elections" is the subject of this editorial. These elections are a challenge between the Military regime and the representative opposition and not at all a process of letting the Algerian people freely decide. Giving the sovereignty back to the Algerian people is an option which the Junta Generals will never consider unless forced to, by force.

The Junta is hopping to fool the international opinion into believing that the political map of Algeria has radically changed thanks to the Junta blind oppression that did not spare any section of the Algerian society. To do this act of illusion, the junta is relating heavily on its stalinian information sector. The Algerian people seems to be left aside in an "electoral campaign" that is ten days old now. Reports from Algeria are stating that there is no signs of a campaign in the streets; no posters, no popular meetings, no leaflets distributions... The Junta has decided to "hide" a popular "medium of expression" where the real Algeria's feeling is trustworthily expressed i,e the stadiums during sports events. "Anti-election" chants are becoming very embarrassing for the Junta which is forced to cut off the sound when showing any sports events. It has decided to "report" all scheduled sports events for after the "elections". This illustrates how much the Junta trust the Algerian people to give them freedom of choice and expression! Many observers are saying that this "electoral campaign" will take place mainly in the Junta media such as the single TV station, the radio and the heavily fasten press. The international press which may be hard to manipulate by the Junta is already being informed indirectly via the Junta newspapers that it is not welcomed to report, as "the terrorists will surely kill them". So the Junta is making sure that the international opinion will follow the campaign and the elections (if they ever take piace, some still hope the Junta will come to its senses), through the "projected shadows" it has the full control of and no one will be allowed to see what it is in "the cave"!

Practically speaking, these "elections" are planned to take place just as the events of Algeria have been taking place: in a complete black out and the Junta controlling what it thinks the international community ought to see... not much that is!

For Algeria and if these "elections" ever take place, the political problem will start really when General Zeroual will reach a point of believing that a shadow is the real object. He will then try to convince the people that his popularity amongst the Algerians, is heavy even if "he did have time" during the campaign to meet them and shack their hands in the streets and markets without few military tanks separating them for their "beloved favourite"!

The Junta is also thinking of opposing each party of the "national contract" by a shadow whose weight is already allocated by future Nobel prize nominees in the field of "Mathematics applied to political cheating" and who work under the supervision of the Junta prime minister Siffi. (" ...they plot and plan, and Allah too plans, but the best of planners is Allah.") [Koran, Surat Al-Anfal, 8:30].

The French policy on Algeria: Any fresh perspective in the horizon?

There are some declarations that do not reveal their full meanings only after time and events have passed. In an interview to a newspaper, a Junta ex-minister of interior has made such type of declaration which at that time seemed very banal.

Mr Meziane Cherif, who was the Junta minister of interior fired by the Generals on the 03/07/95 (for the many who have forgotten him already!), has given an interview a month before, to the London based newspaper "EL HAYAT" and published in its issue of Friday the 02/06/95. This was just after the French presidential elections. The following is an interesting question/answer as published in the "AL HAYAT": AL HAYAT: "Do you see that the departure of your friend the French minister of interior Charles Pasqua, will cause changes in the France's policy toward Algeria particularly when Alain Juppee and Pasqua differed about Algeria?" Meziane Cherif: "I myself understand Mr Pasqua. I have worked with him and we are still in a permanent contact with him and the fact that he is out of the ministry does not mean that he does not influence. But I myself hope that President Jacque Chirac will support all that aims at stability and cessation of violence. And we must remember that they are five millions muslim in France. And if they are not protected from the fundamentalism danger in France, then many changes will take place. And I do not give my opinion on France internal politics but I know that Mr Alain Juppe is also himself a strong caller for peace and he condemns violence and fights it with vigour."

The purpose of this article is not to elaborate on the threat against French new administration hidden between the lines of Mr Meziane's declaration and which the events concretely confirmed eight weeks latter in Paris. The subject here is to analyse the strength of the forces against changes in France's policy on Algeria, in France itself.

When Mr Cherif Meziane talks about the influence of Mr Pasqua even from outside an official office (the above interview was done when Mr Pasqua was not holding any official position, elected or otherwise!), is

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he talking about a parallel organisation to the official institutions or about a lobby that he thinks is powerful enough to influence policies thought to be elaborated principally in the Elysee? Signs here and there point to the second interpretation of the situation, that of the existence of a lobby that is strongly opposed to any change in the statu-quo in Algeria.

There is no doubt that there are people from both side of the mediterranean who have benefited and still do, from the actual situation in Algeria politically, financially or both.

The "micro-crisis" aroused by the official cancellation of the meeting between president Chirac and General Zeroual, have caused important information to be revealed or confirmed as the press from both ends changed tones. Amongst the revelations from the Junta side is that the economical aid it is receiving, benefits French companies who have a very preferential status in penetrating the Algerian market and natural resources. The Junta media have shown on this occasion that they all are under the same hierarchy from the so-called private press to the so-called independent press. This "micro-crisis" has caused all the press in Algeria to be tuned to the same sound and to support the same "candidate" to the succession of himself. The same media when talking about the Junta dealing with financial loans drawn in the name of the Algerian people, as benefiting French companies in the first place, omit to mention that a huge trafficking is taking place involving very high officials in the Junta army where outdated stocks of medicines and food are bought from France by the same loans and fed to the Algerian people.

When outdated stocks of medicines and food are bought with the complicity of high ranking Junta officers, one can understand some of the reasons why keeping the Junta in office is profitable for some. It is one aspect of the Junta continuous disrespect to Algerian people. The real Algerian people dignity is not related to the caprices of a Junta General wanting to take some souvenir photos with President Chirac in New york even if they are meant for his elections. Between the Junta and the Algerian people there is a big gap that has been widening further and further since the coup d'etat of 1992. Now, the two are in two different worlds which the Junta elections are going to push them further away from each other, contrary to what some may still dream that the Junta could have good intentions.

In France, they are some politicians very involved in doing business with Africa as the case of Mr Pasqua which was revealed in the French press (in particular "LE MONDE") during the last presidential elections. The Algerian situation is probably hiding many big politico-financial scandals which could be one of the reasons for the existing of an active lobby in France which militates for the status-quo in Algeria. The strength of this lobby is difficult to quantify directly, however its effect on "directing the French public opinion" to the direction it has chosen for them to exclusively see, can be estimated.

The removal of some of the "Pasqua's men" from influential positions in the French interior ministry during the investigations on the recent bombing in France, is one of the signs.

For almost four years now and since the military coup, the French people were forced to see the events in Algeria through an "inverted prism" where those representing the "micro-minority" were given tens if not hundreds times more hours in the French mass media than the rest of the Algerian opposition put together. In some of the French press, the FIS is still portrayed as synonymous of a terrorist organisation not a political party who won the majority of the Algerian votes. Some officials are still up to now, talking about the "necessity of "muzzling" the Algerian Islamist voice in Europe and America" under the cover of fighting terrorism but do not seem to bother about the activities of "anti-Islamists extremists" who flew from Algeria and have teamed up with the Junta secret police agents in France and abroad under the protective umbrella of the above lobby! The support and means offered to many "pseudo-journalists" as soon as they arrived in Paris would surely make some French journalists jealous.

Does the recent cancelling by the Parisian local authorities of a press conference due to be given by Mr Ait Ahmed the general secretary of the FFS, follow the same logic of lobbying?

In any case the Algerian situation can not go like this for ever now that everybody agreed that the Junta can never win the conflict militarily. Even the French new administration has said it openly, that the solution can not be other than political. The first step in solving a situation like that in Algeria is to make a right diagnosis on its cause. If France has not reached the same conclusion, at least not publicly, on the origin of the problem as all the Algerian opposition have linked it directly to the coup d'etat of January 1992, never the less she is on the same wavelength at last on the subject of "therapy" and this is "a step in the right direction" to use the expression of Shaykh Rabah Kebir. The policy pursued so far by the Junta and called "the security option" is not only declared outdated as the medicines imported by its Generals, but also detrimental to Algeria and the whole region.

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What is peculiar about this "second Algerian war" is that History seems to repeat itself to the minute details. Just as yesterday, a deep vision into the future and a just and realistic geopolitical model where the natural rights of the Algerian people are not neglected, are both necessary but not sufficient if a political courage will come to lack in terms of taking necessary decisions which may be unpopular given the strength of the above lobby and the degree of public opinion conditioning over the past four years. It is very early to speculate on if France has decided or not yet, to listen to the majority of the Algerian people for the second time in history!

The Junta "mathematicians" specialised in political cheating!

Observers of the Algerian scene could not understand at first why the Junta kept on increasing the figure which was supposed to relate the existing number of eligible voters in Algeria. Three months ago it was 9.6 millions and then gradually and discreetly increased to the last week number of 14 millions and nobody knows if this number has stopped increasing or not. So according to the Junta figures some four and half million people have been added in less than three months. That is almost fifty percent increase in three months. One can not ask a stupid question like "from where did they come from", but why all this "fiddling" and what is the logic behind it.

Apparently in the Junta prime minister office they are some "mathematicians" who have "invented a theorem" designed to get General Zeroual elected and to give a new political map of Algeria such that the representative opposition will have little to say if the Junta figures are taken at a face value. The principle axes of this "theorem" are: 1) General Zeroual "should be given" a number of voters greater than what the parties of the "national contract" got all together in the 1991 elections.

2) The percent of the people "voting for General Zeroual" should be greater than the sum of the percent of the three other candidates in the first round. So there will be no need for a second round and no "military versus civilian contest".

3) The total percent of participants in the vote should be more than 50% but not exceeding around 65 percent as not to arouse excessive suspicion.

4) The total number of people voting should exceed the number of voters in the elections of 1991. It is in point 3 and 4 that the "discreet inflation" from 9.6 to 14 millions, fits. This section did not deal with other axis related to the future role allocated to the parties which are taking part in the "elections".

The Junta ex-prime minister, with no comment!

Mr Redha Malek the "eradicator ideologue" has been refused by the Junta to take place in its "elections" for no "valid reason" according to this Junta generals' "old companion".

In an interview to the French newspaper "LE MONDE" of the 25/10/95, he made some revelations of what is going on in the preparation of the big "show" (elections). Following is an extract: LE MONDE: Did the constitutional consul which is in charge of the candidacy files validation for the elections, have remove yours because you have not gathered the 75 000 signatures required by law? Redha Malek: We have gathered 76 194 signatures. We can prove it. All those who have signed did it by conviction. And this despite the pressures and the intimidation manoeuvres. Because if some administration have played the game honestly, others wanted to "dispute in zeal" against us in order to favour the official candidate better still. I have denounced these irregularities publicly. They belong to the practices of the "unique party" which should disappear. It is not possible in 1995, to still organise so- called spontaneous marches in support of the official candidate, it does not work any more! I even have heard people telling me: now that the "president" has entered the contest, you have no chance, so give up! It is not because Mr Zeroual has announced his candidacy that we are going to give up. NO COMMENT!!! [as published]

The government of Mickey under the leadership of Popeye!

When one reads what has happen in the Junta minister of the "Youth and Sports", one does not know if one should cry or laugh. But with all the bad news coming from Algeria, one may as well laugh to this story which is usually find in Walt Disney cartoons, in order to assure some kind of balance. The news: Mr Mustapha Rezig, the head of the Sports federations centre have accused the Junta minister, Mr Sid-Ali Lebib of beating him badly in the minister's office. According to Mr Rezig, the Junta minister has asked for him to come in his office. When Mr Rezig arrived and as he was about to shake hands with the Junta minister, the body guards jumped on him and immobilised him while the Junta minister started to punch him in the face. According to Mr Rezig, this punishment was due to the fact that he has arranged a press conference in his centre to two Algerian athletes (Morcelli and Boulmerka) and in which the policy of the Junta minister was criticised. Mr Rezig added that it is not the first time that the Junta minister acted this way with his subordinates, but all were afraid to report it.

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When the story was published, the Junta dismissed its minister Mr Lebib without giving any reason as if it were not the business of the Algerians to know what type of people are "driving" the destiny of Algeria.

As far as the ordinary Algerian is concerned, he/she will not doubt about the story but will tell that Mr Rezig may have told just a part of the story and that he himself may not be "that innocent" as it is well know that the Junta administration high ranking personnel spend most of their time conspiring against each other, than doing any useful work which may be beneficial for the Algerian people. And this is a universal characteristic of the Nomenklatura! For those subordinates who have not told about their corporal punishment are most probably not as well "connected" as Mr Rezig is.

The ordinary Algerian who is so busy coping with his/her daily life have "packed" all the abnormal behaviour of the regime officials in a well know popular saying:"A government of Mickey under the leadership of Popeye!".

Egypt

Two U.S. Teachers Expelled for 'Alien' Ideas

NC0211195895 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 30 Oct 95 pp 24, 25

[Report by Hamdi al-Husayni]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Interior Ministry's refusal to renew the residence permits of two English teachers at the American University in Cairo [AUC] has led to an outbreak of a war of pamphlets and leaflets within the corridors of all the AUC's buildings. The leaflets defend the teachers and ask about the motives behind the ministry's decision.

Security sources have emphasized that the two American teachers set up a group called "The Tree," whose goal was to spread religious ideas and doctrines that are alien to Egypt. After over two years of surveillance and investigations, the Interior Ministry decided not to renew their residence and gave them a week to leave. The two left Cairo in mid-October. Since then, there has been anxiety at AUC. AUC President Donald McDonald expressed this anxiety in a statement written in English that he passed on to all the university's Egyptian and foreign employees to sign. The statement said: "We are upset about the Egyptian authorities' measure against two of our colleagues. We failed to know the reasons for the expulsion. We tried through legitimate and illegitimate ways to find out the reasons but came up empty. We will try until the end to find out the reasons and will help them make their travel as harmless to them and their families as possible."

An official at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo has declined to comment on the expulsion. He said that the security agencies had ascertained that their presence was not in the interest of the country, and that the reasons leading to this decision were respected. He noted that some Americans in Egypt think they live in the United States, but each country has its own laws, which foreigners must observe. [passage omitted]

Mubarak on U.S. Embassy Decision, Libya

NC0211135995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak has warned of the consequences that the recent U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem will have on the Middle East and the peace process.

Speaking after opening the new Misr Military Hospital, President Mubarak stressed that the decision does not serve the interests of the region and the U.S. President is fully aware of this. He expressed concern that a of lack of credibility for the possibility of achieving peace in the region might be created as a result. He said that the Jerusalem issue is a complex one and of interest to Arabs, Muslims, and Christians. He stressed that this issue should be discussed in the final stages of the negotiations, when emotions have calmed down and the various parties have become assured of the final status of Jerusalem. He noted that the too many statements about this problem will damage the Jerusalem issue and the entire peace process. [passage omitted]

On Egyptian-Libyan ties and his meeting today with brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's envoy, President Mubarak said: Egyptian-Libyan ties are cordial, characterized by cooperation, and very fruitful. He added: Libya is a neighboring country and Egypt never abandons its neighbors. He referred in this case to the Lockerbie issue and Egypt's contacts to discuss what could be done so as to reach a fair solution to this problem. [passage omitted]

Musa on Israel's Jerusalem Plan, Minisummit

NC0211141095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that any violation of international laws and customs or the UN resolutions on Jerusalem along with the construction of new settlements or neighborhoods in Jerusalem would violate the spirit of the peace process and the text of the Madrid agreement to hold a Middle East peace conference.

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Musa made this statement before leaving for Buenos Aires today. He was commenting on a recent statement by the Israeli housing minister on a plan to build a new neighborhood in East Jerusalem in January.

Asked about Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's call to hold an Arab minisummit to discuss the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, Musa said Egypt has received no official invitation in this regard.

Ugandan President Arrives on 3-Day Visit

NC0211171595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni arrived in Cairo this evening on a three-day visit to Egypt. He was met upon arrival at the airport by President Husni Mubarak and a number of senior officials.

Mubarak, Uganda's Museveni Hold Talks

NC0211194095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—Following the talks President Mubarak and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni held in the presidential office this evening, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the Ugandan president's visit is in the context of distinctive bilateral relations and an eagerness to push cooperation ahead in the various spheres.

Al-Sharif said that during the meeting the two presidents discussed a number of African issues and reflected on the two countries' eagerness to bring stability to the continent and denounce the different forms of terrorism.

He added that the meeting also discussed enhancing inter-African cooperation and reviewed the outcome of President Museveni's visits to the United States and Britain.

The information minister added that the two presidents reviewed developments on Middle East issues and on the peace process and discussed ways to consolidate bilateral ties and expand cooperation in the context of the agreements the two countries will sign during the visit. The agreements will be on economic and technical cooperation, encouraging and protecting investments, and enhancing trade.

The minister pointed out that the two presidents will hold a second meeting on 4 November, before the Ugandan president leaves Cairo.

Safwat al-Sharif added that the Egyptian and Ugandan delegations held talks this evening on economic cooperation, attracting investments in both Egypt and Uganda, and on the visits Egyptian businessmen pay to Uganda to launch projects.

He added that the meeting also discussed expanding cooperation in agricultural and media fields and the relaying of Nile International television programs to Uganda.

Pakistani Defense Minister Pays Visit

Discusses Cooperation

NC0211141695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Muhammad al-Ghamrawi, minister of state for war production, today discussed with visiting Pakistani Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani ways of consolidating bilateral cooperation. During the meeting, Dr. al-Ghamrawi handed the Pakistani official a gift made by an Egyptian war production company.

The Pakistani defense minister expressed his extreme admiration of Military Factory 200 for the production and maintenance of armor and praised the high-quality and modernization of Egyptian war production.

The Pakistani minister visited Factory 200 yesterday.

Meets Interior Minister

NC0211160495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1442 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi met today with Pakistani Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani and his delegation, who are on a visit to Egypt.

The two sides exchanged views on security problems of mutual interest. Al-Alfi stressed in this respect that terrorism and organized crime have become the most important problems causing anxiety to most countries. He added that this necessitates positive cooperation from all countries to combat the crimes that threaten the security and peace of democratic societies.

Minister Notes Arrest of 'Terrorists'

NC0211142195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi announced that the security forces have recently captured some terrorists who were spreading ideas aimed at inciting society. He said that those arrested

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have been referred to the State Security Prosecution Office for interrogation.

Speaking before Police Academy students today, the interior minister said that the security forces will not allow any deviation from discipline and legitimacy during the next People's Assembly elections and will not allow any marches or gatherings that threaten security.

Interior Ministry Decree on Election Campaigning

NC0211163595 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 28 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Ministry of Interior has announced measures to organize election campaigning. A security official has told AL-AHRAM correspondent Ahmad Musa that the interior minister issued a decree that obliges candidates to follow the instructions and observe the provisions of the Constitution, laws, and regulations in their campaigning. Under the decree, campaigning cannot include any phrases, drawings, pictures, or any other forms of expression that involve a call for the contempt and hatred of, incitement against, or rejection of the principles on which the country's regime and the society's basic pillars are based; any call that tampers with the rule of law, incites hatred or rejection of Egypt's Arab affiliation, or that questions the people's commitment to this affiliation and undermines social peace and national unity. It is also prohibited to promote any ideas or opinions that affect faith in religious or spiritual values or to disseminate any sensational material, news, or rumors that may undermine or endanger the unity of the homeland.

It is also prohibited to promote the use of violence or resistance of public authorities to achieve any goal related to election campaigning or to spread any sensational reports that include allegations, disinformation, or rumors about the conduct and behavior of rival candidates that may affect the objectivity and fairness of the competition.

Candidates are required to submit to the police station the names of their delegates who will act on their behalf in organizing their campaign, before the campaign starts. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister on Firearms, MB, 'Terrorism'

NC0211175895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has asserted that security forces will not allow the use of firearms for propaganda purposes during the elections campaign. He explained that strict instructions have been issued to deal with anyone who carries firearms during the elections campaign, to meetings and for propaganda; and that licenses will be immediately withdrawn and canceled.

Speaking at a news conference today following the graduation of new police recruits, the interior minister said that the security forces recently launched campaigns to review firearms licenses and that they seized many automatic and other weapons from many people and that a number of licenses were canceled. Stressing that these campaigns are continuing, he added that violators will be referred immediately to the prosecution office. He said: The police show no favoritism. It is implementing the law, preventing security violations, and protecting every person regardless of affiliation.

On requests by some organizations to monitor the late-November Egyptian People's Assembly election, the interior minister stressed that this is illegal. He asked: What does it mean when a group of persons set up themselves as the guardians of governmental quarters? He stressed that the judicial body in Egypt is the only quarter responsible for the elections process and that no other person has this right.

On the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood's ties to terrorist leaders abroad, the interior minister said: Some people belonging to the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood were arrested while disseminating ideas of incitement and provocation within society. This organization is also helping foreign terrorist groups carry out their actions. He added that these persons were referred to the Higher State Security Prosecution office, which ordered their detention for 15 days pending completion of investigations. He added that a Muslim Brotherhood leader, the secretary general of the Engineers Association in Suez, was recently apprehended while contacting a terrorist leader abroad, a refugee in London who has been sentenced to death. He said: After taking the necessary legal measures, it was confirmed that there was close contact with the foreign terrorist elements and that this person was the link inside the country to a member of al-Jihad Organization in Suez. He also received instructions and leaflets that fomented agitation against the state and received the leaflet on a fax machine attached to his private telephone in Suez. He also received another leaflet urging criminal activity and was tasked with delivering this leaflet to the al-Jihad member in Suez. These leaflets were seized.

He added that the defendant confessed that he had travelled to London where he met the fugitive terrorist leader and used a shipping company as a cover for his work.

On the arrest of Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, the interior minister said: He was leading a large group

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of people in a march in a Cairo street. Slogans were shouted and leaflets distributed urging provocation. The minister stressed that elections demonstrations or marches are generally banned.

It is recalled that Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna had not submitted his papers as a candidate for the People's Assembly elections when he was arrested.

Hasan al-Alfi stated in the graduation ceremony speech that the most dangerous challenges that Egypt's society recently faced were the terrorist crimes from which the entire world is suffering. He said that Egyptian security forces, backed by the masses, succeeded in striking at the dens of terrorism and foiling their schemes and attempts to destabilize the country and halt its economic march. He added that the security forces acted on several fronts to strike at the dens of terrorism and abort their schemes, the most prominent of these were the setting up of a data base about the terrorist elements, their ideas and beliefs, the maps of their locations in Egypt and the world, in addition to coordinating with a number of countries on various continents and concluding bilateral and collective treaties and protocols to extradite terrorists who commit murder and sabotage inside the homeland.

The interior minister also asserted that Egypt is facing internal and external challenges and political, social, and economic changes. He said: The security forces cannot exist in isolation from the challenges and changes around them; they must be aware of their impact on security in the shape of norms of behavior that do not agree with our traditions, history, and customs.

He praised the efforts made by Higher State Security intelligence officers in striking at the dens of terrorism and foiling their schemes. He stressed that these were well-planned, enlightened, scientific efforts, which brought results and were praised by international counterterrorism organs.

The interior minister went on to say that the intellectual confrontation of the terrorists was one of the most prominent fronts in which the security organs moved in coordination with our enlightened national press. He added that this confrontation removed masks, exposed to public opinion the slogans behind which terrorist and extremist elements hid, and revealed their shallow ideas and bad intentions and hence the masses sided with justice and legitimacy and cooperated with the security organs in encircling and uprooting the terrorist elements.

Countries Criticized for Attending Amman Summit

NC0311074095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR expresses astonishment that some Arab countries "that had no direct conflict with Israel" rushed to participate in Amman economic summit. The summit turned into a gathering to support Israel's endeavors to reap the fruits of an alleged, partial peace.

In its editorial today, the paper says the peace process, which began by scoring partial success through a declaration of principles between Israel and the Palestinian authorities, stopped within the boundaries of a self-rule that involved only two small areas of the occupied Palestinian territory.

The editorial points out that Israel does not allow for the expansion of self-rule to include more Palestinian territory still under the yoke of occupation. Instead, it works to prevent the Palestinian Authority from shouldering its full responsibility in the self-rule areas.

Those Arab countries should have waited until two important problems with Israel have been solved; namely, withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights and withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Without a solution to these problems, there will be no just and real peace in the region. Consequently, no economic participation between Israel and any Arab country will succeed.

Islamists Said Subjected to Human Rights Abuse

MS0311112995 London INDEPENDENT in English 3 Nov 95 p 14

[Report by Robert Fisk: "Egyptian Islamists Die in 'Terror' Jail"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo — In a sinister new development in the Egyptian government's war against its Islamist opponents, at least 26 captured fundamentalists have mysteriously died in custody in just eight months most of them in a grim new jail far out in the Sahara desert.

The deaths are described by Egyptian lawyers as a campaign of "terror" to eliminate Islamist suspects before they are even brought to trial. They follow consistent reports of the beating, starvation and rape of inmates in the Walid al-Jadid prison complex 200 miles northwest of Assiut.

A lawyer who managed to visit the new jail two months ago has shown the Independent signed statements by four prisoners who describe how their fellow inmates, on arrival at the jail, were stripped and whipped with

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wire, ordered to assume female names and then either beaten or forced to perform homosexual acts with other prisoners as punishments for breaking jail rules.

"Many of the prisoners are starved, and when they have been beaten, they have not received medical treatment — and so they die," the lawyer said after insisting that the Independent did not publish his name.

Twenty of the prisoners who have died were in their 20s and 30s. Most of their families have received certificates stating that they died of "sharp circulatory and respiratory failure".

In the case of Mustaf 'Iraqi, a 34-year-old Islamist lawyer, death in the Walid al-Jadid prison was said to have been due to a "chest disease", but a fellow prisoner, 'Abdulla 'Ali Ahmed, testified that 'Iraqi had been tortured by security guards in the jail, and that wounds to his chest were deliberately left untreated. Police at the graveside at 'Iraqi's burial prevented any examination of the body.

When families have been allowed to see prisoners' bodies they have almost invariably noticed that the dead man suffered severe weight loss. Other prisoners were said by the authorities to have died of "acute kidney failure" (Muhammed 'Ali 'Ahmed, 35), "acute pneumonia" (Ahmad 'Abd-al-Maqsud, 28) or tuberculosis (Ayman Khalifah Hajji, 27).

More typical was the case of 26-year-old 'Ali Mahmud al-Rifa'i, who died in Walid al-Jadid prison on 24 June, less than six months after his arrest. His family were summoned to receive his corpse at midnight and ordered by the police to bury it immediately. Security men stood by as Rifa'i's remains were lowered into his grave an hour later under police arc lamps. He had died, they said, of "sharp circulatory and respiratory failure", although no death certificate was issued.

Hafiz abu-Sa'da, the executive chairman of the Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights, which has catalogued many of the deaths and complained in vain to the Egyptian Minister of the Interior, believes the deliberate mistreatment of the prisoners and their incarceration in the new jail, far from their homes, is part of a systematic punishment. "These men have not been tried — some of them have been held since 1989 — and we cannot even get a reply from the Interior Ministry when we demand an explanation for all these deaths," he said.

The lawyer who demanded anonymity was less diplomatic. "The government is using this prison to dehumanise and shame these men. That is why they are given female names — do you know how insulting that is for a Muslim? — and that is why, if a guard is angry with a prisoner, he will order another inmate to rape him, right there in the cell. This happens regularly."

The same lawyer described how new arrivals at Walid al-Jadid, in which around 3,500 Islamists are now being held, were taken 10 at a time from covered lorries and ordered to crawl through the main gate. "They are then forced to crawl down a 45ft corridor, all the while being beaten by guards on both sides. They are stripped and kicked by a man who gives each of them a woman's name. They must use this name all the time in the prison. They can wear only their underclothes for a week and then they are given a yellow prison uniform. There is no doctor, no prison hospital."

Reports of prisoners being forced to rape each other as punishment by guards have also emerged from the Wadi al-Natrun jail, near the desert road between Cairo and Alexandria. Here, too, inmates are forced to assume female names. "When he is first given the name, he must keep repeating it, shouting it out loud until he reaches the door of his cell," the lawyer said. "He and the other men then have to remain naked in the cell for two days."

Lawyers have been hampered in their efforts to visit clients in the jail by the refusal of prison officials to give their real names — for fear that their families could be murdered by members of the Islamic Jihad, whose savage war against President Hosni Mubarak's government has now cost the lives of at least 820 Egyptians.

Family members are also forced to wait for hours beneath the desert sun at both Walid al-Jadid and Wadi al-Natrun to see their relatives, often being refused the statutory seven-minute visit because, according to lawyers, the official signatures on their visitors' passes are "illegible".

Dr Usamah al-Baz, Mr Mubarak's political affairs director, met Egyptian human rights groups for the first time in August to hear their complaints, and agreed to study their reports. Since then, there have been at least seven more deaths in custody.

Libya

Editor Assails UK Foreign Secretary's Remarks

LD0211164295 Tripoli JANA in English 1625 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, 2 al-Harth [November], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The English intelligence radio, known as London radio, has quoted the English foreign minister as saying that Libya could improve its relations with other states if it abandoned what he called sponsoring terrorism.

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JANA international affairs editor commented on that statement and said : That statement reveals that the English foreign minister's eyes are blinkered and he could not see clearly the civilizational course which the Great Jamahiriyah has adopted as a main pillar in its international relations with all the states that seek the welfare of their nations and adopt serene diplomatic dialogue as a means to tackle all issues faced.

The editor added: The new English foreign minister has to remove the blinkers from his eyes. He has to change the racial hatred policy against nations, which was the policy governing the English foreign policy in the past era, the policy of malicious crusader racism that epitomised all the evils of racial hatred and animosity, that was apparent in all statements in respect of the Great Jamahiriyah, and in respect of the Libyan Arab people, Arabism and Islam. He did not seek to enhance the cycle of peace, understanding and dialogue with the Libyans, but adopted the style of intransigence, mis-information, fraudulence and provoking world public opinion against the Libyan Arab people.

The editor revealed that if this minister is aware that his predecessors fell in history waste bin and that the steadfast of the Libyan Arab people remains high, that Hurd is over with no regret then that re-affirms that we are right and that we remain and survive through our steadfast , resistance and nobility which govern our rational and sober political course of dialogue and favouring the interests of nations, rather than the narrow selfish interests.

In this respect, the international affairs editor confirmed that all the nations of the world are fully convinced over the integrity of the Libyan Arab position regarding the so-called Lockerbie case, and that they support the Great Jamahiriyah at all international and regional meetings and forums, and they had expressed their belief that the Great Jamahiriyah is being taken as an escape goat, with the exception of the American and English governments, which reject the logic of dialogue and reason in solving issues between states. In fact these two governments persisted in the policy of intransigence and arrogance, which is snubbed by the logic of history as well as by all conventions and charters that govern relationships between states, as that obsolete logic does not benfit nations, but in fact pushes everyone into a dark tunnel with no end.

The editor concluded his comment by saying: We are still waiting for a new style imposed by the English foreign minister on the various aspects of English foreign policies, and whether it will eventually adopt the higher English interests or whether it will be short in this respect. That will become more and more clear through the political line followed by this minister in settling the so-called Lockerbie case, and in rapproachement with the Great Jamahiriyah people.

Sudan

Popular Committee Declares General Mobilization

NC0211182395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 2 Nov (MENA)—The Popular Committee for Defending the Faith and the Homeland in Sudan has declared a general mobilization among the various categories of the Sudanese people, condemning what it described as a "sinful" aggression by the Ugandan regime in the areas of Parajok and Magwe in southern Sudan.

At an emergency meeting at noon today, the committee appealed to the various sectors of the people to exercise the maximum degrees of caution and alertness, to prepared to secure all locations and institutions all over Sudan, and to be on standby.

The Armed Forces general command issued a statement on 29 October, accusing Uganda of invading its territory with the rebels' help and guidance.

'Mass Mobilization' Against Uganda

EA0211173095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Popular Committee for the Defense of the Faith and the Homeland [an affiliate of the National Islamic Front] has announced a general mass mobilization of the people from all walks of life. It condemned the Ugandan regime's evil aggression in the Parajok and Magwe areas in the south of the country.

During an emergency meeting convened this afternoon, the committee referred to all the diplomatic and military steps the political leadership had taken to repulse the aggression. It urged all sections of society, both political and popular, to exercise maximum caution and be on the alert, ready to protect places and institutions throughout the country and remain at the beck and call of the country's defenses to protect its inlets and unity.

The members of the committee stressed the unity of the Sudanese people and the cohesion of the internal front. They affirmed their keenness to take up arms to fight the forces of international oppression and conspiracy.

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Radio on Timing of Egypt, Uganda Presidents' Talks

EA0211202595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Reports say Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni will today start a three-day visit to Egypt, during which he will hold talks with the president of the Egyptian regime. Observers point out that the meeting of the two heads of state comes in the wake of Uganda's recent aggression against Sudanese territory and the build-up of direct Ugandan military support for the rebels in southern Sudan. An official spokesman of the Armed Forces has said that the Armed Forces are capable of bringing them to a halt and repulsing the aggression. He said the ruling regime in Uganda was attempting to use the rebels to achieve its goals. [passage omitted]

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Bahrain

Amir Deplores 'State of Disunion' of Arab Nation

MM0211154495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Nov 95 p 1

[Report on interview with Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah by Bari'ah 'Alam al-Din in Manama on 1 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with Al-HAYAH yesterday at al-Rifa' Palace, Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of the State of Bahrain, expressed his utmost regret for the state of disunion and disagreements dominating the Arab nation. He said that he "felt bitter when he heard Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin announce to the delegations participating in the Amman economic summit that he 'has come from Jerusalem, the capital of Israel.'"

Shaykh 'Isa added that "Jerusalem was and will continue to be a land of Islamic holy sites. And there has to be serious negotiation over Jerusalem's status, on the grounds that it is a main issue as regards achieving a comprehensive and just solution in the region."

Asked about the Gulf Cooperation Council summit, scheduled to be held in Muscat early next month, he said: "Bahrain is looking forward to attending the summit with great optimism, because it is a good opportunity for coordination and to study regional issues and all that concerns the Gulf house in a spirit of sincere brotherhood that takes account of everyone."

He stressed his country's position on the Saudi mediation in the border dispute between Bahrain and Qatar, saying that it is "a clear position of always welcoming the noble Saudi mediation. Bahrain always supports the principles of resolving disputes among brothers amicably and peacefully."

Asked about the internal situation in Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa said: "We have made great strides to build and modernize our country, thanks to the efforts of its sincere sons and their desire to develop their country. We have managed to surmount the sedition some people tried to foment, thanks to the cohesion of the Bahraini people."

He added: "We will not allow anyone to harm the achievements of this people, sabotage their installations, or undermine the march of their security and stability." He expressed his "happiness at the restoration of security and stability in Lebanon." He said that "the rebuilding process must be the focus, in order to build what the long, ugly war has destroyed."

Kuwait

Pelletreau Cited on U.S. Commitment to Security

LD0211201895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1816 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 2 Nov — The United States has reaffirmed its commitment to the security and safety of the State of Kuwait in confronting any threats from the Iraqi regime. This came in an exclusive statement made today by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau to the Kuwaiti news agency. He said: "Washington will not allow any Iraqi threat against Kuwait," stressing that: "it possesses the means to deter any threats."

Pelletreau, who is currently visiting Saudi Arabia, expressed his belief that: "Saddam Husayn perceives and understands perfectly how serious Washington is regarding this matter."

Qatar

Minister Discusses Water Project With Iran

JN0211201695 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 2 Nov (WAKH)— Engineer Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali al-Subay'i, the Qatari electricity and water minister, and his Iranian counterpart [title as received] Engineer Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh, currently visiting Qatar, met in Doha today. They were briefed on the latest developments of the project to supply Qatar with Iranian sweet water.

In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, the Qatari minister said that during the meeting, the Qatari and Iranian sides stressed that both countries will seriously proceed with implementing this project in view of its economic feasibility. They also stressed the need to continue the work of the joint technical committee, activate its role, and support it to finalize its studies and to present them to the higher authorities in both countries, so an appropriate decision will be made in this regard.

For his part, the Iranian minister said the conferees discussed means of cooperation in the field of water and electric industries.

Saudi Arabia

Pelletreau Hails Ties, Views Peace Process

LD0211235595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2255 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 2 Nov — A U.S. official today stressed the depth and strength of the relations

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between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States in all fields.

In a press statement made today Mr. Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, said that the five-decades-long special relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States are strong in all fields.

He added, in the press statement: I would like to express my gratitude to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz for his warm hospitality, for receiving me, and for the fruitful exchange of views on bilateral and regional issues that we had.

He add: I was honored during my audience with the custodian of the two holy mosques by delivering to him a message from President Clinton and expressing to him our appreciation for the excellent visit of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to the United States.

Mr. Pelletreau reaffirmed the United States' commitment to maintain these excellent relations with the Kingdom and to strengthen them for mutual interest, and also its commitment to continue its close cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Gulf region.

He renewed the United States' strong commitment to achieve a comprehensive and equitable peace in the Middle East noting that it will continue to play a major and active role in this respect. He also said: We are aware that it would be impossible to achieve a comprehensive peace without successfully reaching peace agreements between Syria and Israel, and between Lebanon and Israel, and we will continue to work on both those tracks. We also urge all concerned parties to continue their efforts toward a just and comprehensive peace and toward the accomplishment of economic development for the good and prosperity of the peoples of the region.

He also reaffirmed, at the end of his press statement, the United States' commitment to the implementation of the sanctions imposed by the United Nations on Iraq until Iraq fully implements all its commitments according to the resolutions of the Security Council.

He went on to say: We are aware of the Iraqi people's ordeal. However, the Iraqi government bears full responsibility for it. We urge Saddam Husayn to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations and we also urge him to allow the importation of food and other humanitarian material for the benefit of the Iraqi people as stipulated by Security Council Resolution 986.

Pilgrims Warned Not To Carry Prohibited Material

LD0311110595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
0730 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 3 Nov (SPA) — The Interior Ministry has released a statement after noticing that some brethren coming to perform the rite of Hajj were carrying with them books, portraits, and publications for political, propagandist or ideological purposes. It said that this was incompatible with the noble purpose of Hajj.

The ministry also stressed that anyone found in possession of any type of prohibited material would receive an exemplary punishment and retribution and that the regulations in force in the kingdom would be applied against them without any leniency or forbearance.

The following is the text of the statement: [passage omitted]

This ministry has noticed that some brethren who come are carrying with them books, portraits, or publications for political, propagandist, or ideological purposes, either with good intentions, and this is what we believe God willing, or with the desire to exploit this honorable occasion. This will have an influence on some minds or will directly harm others and this is incompatible with the noble goal of Hajj.

Therefore, on the strength of information it has, the Interior Ministry would like to point out that such things are totally prohibited and hopes that God's guests [pilgrims] will be given the opportunity to perform their rites in humility without any attempt to distract them from the worship for which they have come. While stressing this, the ministry hopes that everybody will comply with this and will not transgress it. Anyone who contravenes this will be punished and will be sent back to where they came from.

Moreover, anyone who is found in possession of any prohibited material will receive a deterrent punishment and retribution and the regulations in force in the kingdom will be applied to them without any leniency or forbearance because it is the responsibility of this ministry to safeguard the security of the pilgrims and the citizens and to ensure that the land of this kingdom is a haven of goodness and safety for all those who come to the Ka'ba [in Mecca] or visit the mosque of His honorable prophet.

While making this clear to all the pilgrims, the ministry would like to remind them of God's words: "For Hajj are the months well known. If anyone undertakes that duty, let there be no obscenity, nor wickedness, nor wrangling in the Hajj. And whatever good you do, be sure God

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knows it. Take provisions with you for the journey, but the best of provisions is piety. So fear Me, o you that are wise [Koran, Surate 2, verse 197]."

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Saddam Meets With State Officials, Academics

Officials Glorify Saddam

JN0211205395

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic at 1802 GMT on 2 November, as part of its scheduled 1800 GMT newscast, broadcasts a recording of the welcome accorded to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn when he met with state officials, academics, and people holding special grades, and the speech he delivered on the occasion. The date of the meeting, which is held in a large auditorium, is not given.

Reception is good, although there was a 23-minute break in transmission.

At 1803 GMT, Saddam is shown making his way to the stage of a large auditorium filled with state officials who accord him a standing ovation. He is dressed in civilian attire. He is followed by several military personnel and guards.

At 1805 GMT, Saddam begins by inquiring about the senior officials' health. They answer him saying that they are fine, and that they seek to see him enjoying good health. He welcomes them. He says that he views all state officials as youths regardless of how old they are. He adds that he had to see them, particularly since he has met with Ba'thist officials and popular organizations and trade union leaders. He tells them that he wants to listen to their remarks if they have any.

At 1808 GMT, a speaker Saddam identifies by the name of Karim, who was a fellow prisoner with Saddam Husayn during the era of underground action, begins to speak. He lavishes praise on Saddam Husayn, expressing the willingness of the Ba'thists to die so that Saddam Husayn may live. He goes on to say that the poor cast a yes vote for Saddam Husayn of their own volition. He expresses opposition to the Western version of democracy cherished by U.S. President Clinton and other Western leaders. This is met by applause from the audience.

At 1811 GMT, another unidentified speaker begins to speak. He says that the Iraqi people have shown a high sense of responsibility. He commends Saddam's love for Iraq. That is why all the people cast a yes vote for Saddam Husayn in the referendum, he argues. By saying yes to Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi people have chosen to vindicate their national unity and territorial integrity, says the speaker. He adds that on the day of the referendum, elderly people, youths, children, and women were the first to cast their votes. The great festival will be when victory is achieved for Iraq and its people, he says.

At 1814 GMT, another speaker, identified by Saddam Husayn as Nuri Najm al-Marsumi, under secretary at the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information, begins to speak. He says that the Iraqi people have said their final word. They have made an unprecedented response to the enemies. The Iraqi people have expressed opposition to foreign schemes and plotting. For the past six months, there have been new forms of plotting, he contends.

At 1815 GMT, Saddam interrupts to say that the enemies have used all their bargaining chips against Iraq. Immediately afterwards, al-Marsumi continues, arguing that the referendum has lent an exceptional momentum to the resolve of the Iraqis and the Arab nation. The referendum is the catalyst for further action. It is a good reason for us to proceed in our efforts to bring about an end to the sanctions, and to thwart the colonialist-reactionary plotting. All suspicious and reactionary plots will be defeated, God willing, he notes.

At 1819 GMT, an unidentified speaker begins to speak beseeching God to promote Saddam's ability to address imminent challenges. He expresses happiness with this meeting with Saddam Husayn. He commends the great timing of the referendum chosen by Saddam Husayn. He assures Saddam that when the sanctions grow harsher, the Iraqis' love for him will grow bigger and bigger. At 1826 GMT, he ends his remarks.

Immediately afterwards, another unidentified speaker begins to speak, saying that the referendum day was a great day in the history of the Iraqis. He dwells on the genius and greatness of Saddam Husayn.

At 1830 GMT, an unidentified speaker glorifies Saddam Husayn, and then begins to recite a poem singing the praises of Saddam Husayn. At 1838 GMT, he ends his poem.

Immediately afterwards, Saddam begins to speak. [His remarks are covered in the following item headlined "Saddam Delivers Speech"]

At 1857 GMT, during Saddam's remarks, Baghdad Television went off the air. At 1920 GMT, Baghdad Television came back on the air carrying foreign news on Boris Yeltsin's health condition. This was followed by other foreign news.

Saddam Delivers Speech

JN0211083495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 2105 GMT 1 Nov 95

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn during a meeting with government officials, advisers, university pres-

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idents, and academics; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] How great the responsibility is to the Iraqi people and how enjoyable it is to those who believe that responsibility is a service to their people and nation.

Welcome, O men of the state and the glorious women of the state. [applause] Peoples and nations pass through difficult circumstances, including the situation in which not all people will follow the right path when making a necessary decision, or in which not all will walk forward when the march should continue with persistent steps in accordance with the same measures.

Here emerges requirements that have to be available. Most important of which is that the men and women of the state and its bodies should be firm in such a way that everyone will be able to return to the right path and move at the necessary quick and correct pace.

This is a general criterion, O comrades. I mean the comrades of the state and the mujahidin in this field. In Iraq, other criteria are added according to the nature of things. When values are shaken and ropes of safety are disturbed, it is necessary for the leaders to adhere firmly to their principles. As you are aware, leadership in our country is not confined to one place or one domain. It has its own specifications. Whenever an initiative is taken and when an exceptional difficulty arises, leaders come to the fore, affirming that their firmness on the path is not shaken by difficulties.

Thus, the Iraqis, including the glorious women, have always been like this. They have built, fought, and brought up their children on love and the truth. When a storm rages, those who look at Iraq from a far distance, or those who do not base their view of Iraq on true faith or thorough view of facts as they are, believe that Iraq has ended. But when the dust settles, Iraq appears to be in a better position, and more brilliant. [applause]

Brothers, today, as before, you bear a special responsibility. I say special because it is hard to acquire all the features, meanings, and specifications of this responsibility through one particular speech and occasion. Hence, I say you bear a special responsibility because your people are under siege. Today, more than any time before, the men of the state and the glorious women are able to offer whatever makes their people proud and infuses in their souls the ability to continue the meanings you know and believe in. During these difficult circumstances, and for many reasons, whoever offers a service outside the state's capabilities and outside the domain of the state bodies, offers it based on market standards, in general. Whoever offers a commodity in the market, offers it according to market standards as well.

The state body is the only body that can offer a service and a commodity not based on market standards. In the first place, this service and commodity is not based on market standards. In other words, it is an idea, whose standards, which are inside the mind and conscience of those who thought about it and created it, are not based on making profit or money through these creations, proposals, ideas, or accomplishments. It is an idea whose standards are based on how to serve the people. Anyone whose standards are based on how to serve the people, will be able to offer a great service to the people.

Other people devote their efforts in one way or another to supporting the Iraqi people's steadfastness, construction, and forbearance. However, not all of these efforts are originally designed for this purpose. He who sells a certain agricultural commodity does so to make some money. He who sells a local industrial commodity also does so to make some profit. I do know that all such people want to see Iraq reach the shore of safety, and I do know that they want to maintain the Iraqi people's balance. Had this not been in the mind of all the Iraqis, regardless of the nature of their work and whether they work in the private sector, the socialist sector, or the mixed sector, and had they not been determined to see Iraq cross to the shore of safety, the results of the referendum would not have been the way they were. [applause]

Nevertheless, the state employees can render a direct service of great value to their people when they want and decide to do so. Under the circumstances, even the private sector would not have been able to endure the embargo conditions had the government bodies not been able to render the necessary services and production.

If this is your description of the situation in brief, and we agree with it, then all should remember this description in their daily work. We all agree that the enemies cannot ignore the results [of the referendum] of the Iraqi people, and that making the enemies understand [words indistinct] will expedite, facilitate, and lay the sound foundation for the crossing [to the shore of safety]. We all should not forget how to serve the people of Iraq. [applause]

Through sincere, honest, and faithful work and through production that enables the people to overcome these difficult circumstances, you will have given the people part of what they deserve for their great stand.

We meet today with the leading state officials. During the secret activity period, when we used to meet with anyone, we always thought of how to win him over to

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the party. When we meet with state officials, we cannot help avoiding persistent questions in our mind: How can we benefit from this meeting in order to extend additional benefits to the great Iraqi people?

Therefore, I would like to give you an idea. You can adopt it if you think it is suitable. If you find that it is not suitable, then you can leave it aside. The idea is the following: Let each one of you in his own position, without requesting additional allocations, personnel, or resources, and within his own resources, come up with a new idea pertaining to the fact that if he wants more resources, he should think how to create them and not to add them as figures. I want each one of you to think, along with the brothers working in his department, be he a governor, an under secretary, director general, or in any position in the state structures and its ropes of steel, God willing. [applause] Also if he is an ambassador—I can see a number of men, including ambassador Nuri [Isma'il al-Wayyis, ambassador to Jordan]. Let the state official think how to create resources to promote an idea and offer it as a gift on the day of the get together [yawm al-liqa'], let us call it, or any other title you may choose. He should endeavor to offer a perfectly new idea. If it is related to services, production, writing, lecture, or a discourse in diplomacy—I have in front of me the Foreign Ministry under secretary—it must be perfectly original and not depending on old ideas of others.

We should give this subject room without harming other work. Each one will carry out his schedule as it is. If he needs hours, then this will be additional hours pertaining to his own work. His department, services, production, culture, arts or poetry, anything else will proceed as usual.

However, six months later, he must directly, not through the ministry and the minister, send a letter, saying that he presented this idea within six months. With this, we, at this meeting, add something new to serve the great people of Iraq. [applause] I forgot to say that an idea, which becomes an assumed fact in all the fields I have mentioned, should be oriented toward serving the people of Iraq. [applause]

An ambassador in a country, might, for example, say: In the past, we did not have trade or economic cooperation ties with so and so country, even in terms of what is theoretically approved by the United Nations. As it comes to my mind, one might say: They want us to change or not to change. They want us to mix seriousness with what is popularly inherited. I probably said this to you at a Cabinet meeting previously. A person is traveling to see his sister. Even if it is from one village to another, it is still called travelling whether it is done on foot or using an animal. Even travelling between one village and another is called travelling. Even moving between one tribe and another is called travelling. Therefore, in the past, when a woman got married to someone outside her tribe or her district, they considered her an exile. If they wanted to visit her, they would probably visit her once a year, or she might visit them once every two or four years. This is not something I heard about, it is something I saw for myself in the past. Perhaps some of you saw that for yourselves as well. Anyway, someone has a sister who is married and living somewhere else. He decided to travel to see her after a long time. She welcomed him. He told her: I was at the market and I wanted to bring something for the children. She told him: The children do not need anything. The most important thing is that you arrived safely, praise be to God. He told her: No my sister, let the children eat. [laughter followed by applause] [Words indistinct] let them eat.

The United Nations and the people of Iraq—the Iraqi people are greater than to be described as small—are more mature than the hostile political leaders. An old farmer, who does not read or write, has a more mature vision and is more capable of expressing rights than the leaders of the countries of the aggression. [applause] One of these leaders' decisions is to allow medicine and food into Iraq. However, one of the aforementioned stories applies to their decisions. How can one buy food if he does not have money in his pocket? The other thing is that every issue, even if it has to do with medicine or food, must be presented for approval or disapproval. They have rejected food, medicine, and documents. This is shown in the records.

In any case, we do not want to discuss this issue because it does not merit discussion. Some topics are not worth discussion. We should only speak about our people, our nation, and the good people in the world. [applause]

An ambassador might say: In the past we could not deal with this state but I have been able to convince officials in this state to extend easier payment terms to us in exchange for food and medicine. This is original. This is something new.

A university professor, who gives many lectures to his students, might think what benefits the Iraqi people will get, either directly or indirectly. He might give a lecture the like of which he has never given in the past, a lecture in which the creativity is very clear. Likewise, the industrialist, other positions; the services, in such and such departments, here or there. Do you agree with this idea? [applause]

Then we would like to hear from you, God willing, six months from now. We hope that you will understand the substance of this proposal and the idea of which we

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spoke and not any of its superficial, ostensible aspects. [applause; audience shouts: "With our souls and blood, we defend you, Saddam"]

We hope to find you in good conditions all the time as a vital part of your great people. Blessings of God be upon you. [applause]

KDP Says INC Explosion Investigation Under Way

JN0211214995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the disaster caused by the explosion at the security office of the Iraqi National Congress [INC] in Salah al-Din on 31 October, Mas'ud Barzani issued the following statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With great pain and regret, a huge explosion took place in the building housing the INC security office in Salah al-Din on Tuesday afternoon, 31 October.

Many were martyred or wounded by the explosion whose cause remains unknown. The victims comprise members of the INC, the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], and civilians including children and women who live near the building.

We immediately instructed the competent security and administrative quarters to investigate the incident to determine why it took place. The investigation is under way.

We condemn in advance all terrorist actions by any party whatsoever and call on all to help unravel the causes of this incident.

On this occasion, we offer sincere condolences to the INC Executive Bureau and to the families of all the victims; INC and KDP members and other citizens. We ask God to arm them with patience and fortitude to sustain them in this tragedy. We also wish the wounded speedy recovery with God's help.

From Him we come and to Him we return.

[Signed] Mas'ud Barzani, 1 November 1995

PUK Condemns Blast at INC Office in North

NC0211162795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Political Bureau of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] has sent a cable of condolences to Dr. Ahmad al-Shalabi, chairman of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC; Iraqi National Congress, INC]. The PUK condemned the abominable crime carried out a few days ago by the bloody quarters against a UINC office in the summer resort of Salah al-Din.

Barzani Spokesman, Talabani Exchange Accusations

MM0311104795 London AL-HAYAH 3 Nov 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Zuhayr al-Qusaybati: "Barzani Fears All-Out Fighting; Talabani Challenges Him To Oppose Saddam"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — The Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] (led by Mas'ud Barzani) has announced that there are serious fears that the truce between it and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] (led by Jalal Talabani) might collapse and "the fighting break out on a large scale" in north Iraq. The KDP vehemently attacked the PUK, accusing it of coordinating with Baghdad and the Kurdistan Workers' Party [PKK] (led by Abdullah Ocalan).

A KDP spokesman told AL-HAYAH that Iraqi officers are frequenting Talabani's headquarters in Qalatshulan [as transliterated], stressing that the PUK continues to receive consignments of weapons and equipment from the Iraqi regime and other states in the region. The spokesman rejected "the false accusations leveled at the KDP by Talabani," namely that it is receiving armored vehicles from Baghdad.

But Talabani stressed to AL-HAYAH yesterday that "there is nothing but strong enmity between the PUK and the Iraqi regime. I challenge Barzani to utter a single word against the regime of (President) Saddam" Husayn. He pointed out that Barzani's party is preparing for an offensive on Irbil in coordination with Baghdad.

Talabani told AL-HAYAH over the telephone from Damascus that "the PUK's enmity toward the Iraqi regime is strong. This has been known for many years."

He pointed out that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz "stated openly that Baghdad had provided aid, weapons, and money to the KDP, which has not denied this report. We requested that a committee be formed to investigate the matter." He wondered: "What does it mean when Baghdad supplies Barzani with 18 armored vehicles? Collusion or a tacit agreement?"

Replying to Barzani's accusation that the PUK is coordinating with Baghdad through officers frequenting Talabani's headquarters, the Kurdish leader said: "The Iraqi opposition is present in the region, and our enmity toward the regime is known."

Talabani believes that the KDP "is receiving weapons from Baghdad in preparation for launching an offensive." The reward for the deal between Barzani and Sad-

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dam is "the occupation of Irbil," which is under PUK control. He said that he will return to north Iraq within two days. He told AL-HAYAH that "Saddam has supplied Barzani with 18 armored vehicles."

Commenting, a KDP spokesman said that "Jalal Talabani persists in violating the agreement on the suspension of media campaigns. He unjustifiably launched an attack against our party's leadership on 5 October, devoting a large part of an interview transmitted by the Kurdish television station MIDTV [as published] on 24 October to the false accusations in question, in order to justify the PKK's aggression against our party and the people of Iraqi Kurdistan. Then he started to repeat an old allegation, that the KDP received 18 armored vehicles from the Iraqi regime. And he repeated the false accusations yesterday."

The spokesman told AL-HAYAH that "the KDP has not received any armored vehicles from the Iraqi regime, and we still have a very limited number of armored vehicles which you could count on the fingers of one hand. The peshmergas seized them during the uprising. The PUK too has had some armored vehicles since that time. It used one of them to hit Razkari Hospital in Irbil, burning one floor of the new building, when the fighting broke out in December" 1994. R He added that Talabani "has received and continues to receive consignments of weapons and equipment from the Iraqi regime and other states in the regime to support its operations against the KDP." He added that "(Iraqi) military and government delegations are frequenting Qalatshulan, where Talabani's headquarters is based. They hold seminars in al-Sulaymaniyah, urging an agreement with the regime, whose relations with the PUK tend to grow stronger then weaker, but without ever being severed."

The spokesman for Barzani's party expressed his hope that "the media violations through the PUK secretary general and the continued harassment and attacks on our party's supporters in the areas controlled by the PUK, especially al-Sulaymaniyah, are not a prelude to a violation of the truce and another offensive against our positions and the interests of our people, who are yearning for a lasting peace."

The spokesman said that "launching media campaigns (against the KDP) while mediation efforts are intensifying between the two parties serves no one other than the enemies of the Kurdish people, deepens disagreements, and create new psychological barriers." He urged Talabani "to adopt the logic of reason and spare our people greater calamities and tragedies."

Columnist Assails U.S. 'Plan' To Divide Nation

JN0211134995 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Oct 95 pp 1,2

[Article by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar: "The Referendum and the Future of Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As we said in this study, the events taking place in today's world, especially since 1991, confirm the existence of several manifestations which, in their entirety, constitute a dictatorial world trend of a clear imperialist nature based on negating the sovereignty of other states and dealing with them as targets which must be penetrated prior to containing and subjugating them to U.S. imperialism.

Reversing the substance of democracy from an expression of a people's free will to a system which must be imposed on other states by the force of U.S. tanks, is a typical manifestation of this main imperialist trend, which wants the world to fall into the grip of the United States, even if it means committing massacres and starting and maintaining civil wars in those states until their national unity collapses and the cohesion of their societies disintegrates.

This main imperialist trend has found other manifestations. It is manifested by U.S. possession of a superior and unique propaganda machine, which can distort facts or black them out completely and disseminate the type of information which will win over, or at least neutralize the world. This trend has placed states and nations before serious challenges; mainly, the challenge of the United States waging war or threatening to wage war on them through its sophisticated war machine. Meanwhile, its media would distort facts and portray the target state as a world peace and security threat, which must be eliminated, or call for its military and economic siege in the name of international legitimacy. Economic sabotage and psychological warfare operations would then follow.

Through the effect of the different forms of pressure — civil war, inter-state wars, economic embargo, and propaganda — the United States destroys the real environment for democracy, since sound democracy should be the outcome of internal stability and security which ensure for the citizen the right climate to express his opinion freely without any challenge or pressure. Such pressure leads to the creation of state of emergency conditions in which democracy is usually the first victim. [passage omitted]

Why then is Iraq holding the referendum, when the United States has tried through the 30-state aggression and the embargo, which are the most serious situations to be faced by any people, to dominate Iraq under the

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slogan of democracy and human rights? The answer to this question will shed light anew on the Iraqi people's distinct characteristics and peculiarities which, throughout history, made Iraq the great gateway of freedom, progress, and civilization in the ages of barbarism, dictatorship, and blackmail.

The decision to hold the referendum was not the most important one in Iraq's modern history. Indeed, it is a basic and vital decision, but it is only an offshoot of a more important and serious decision, which is to reject surrender to the terms of imperialism and to defend the independence of Iraq and the freedom and future of its people in the face of a major criminal attempt to dominate Iraq and start a civil war, which the United States wants to be a prelude to dividing Iraq, displacing millions of Iraqis, and killing millions of others.

The decision to resist the United States since 1991 is mainly based on the awareness of a fact, which we Iraqis knew then and has now become common knowledge to many Arabs and Muslims. This fact is the American plan to sow the seeds of an unresolvable crisis in Iraq and its vicinity and to fan this crisis until it reaches the level of a hot conflict. The United States would then devote all its capabilities to imposing an agent regime on Iraq which would end the war or the crisis. In fact, the plan is aimed at setting up agent governments here and there. The United States wants a second government in al-Basrah, a third in Mosul, a fourth in al-'Amarah, etc. These governments would be involved in wars which would result in the destruction of Iraq — entity and people — and its transformation into a colony with a population of docile people and slaves governed by individuals, about whom the least that could be said is that they would be thieves.

What happened in Lebanon, and what is happening today in Yugoslavia, is what the United States has planned to take place in Iraq also in an even worse and more tragic manner. Thus, the seemingly attractive U.S. slogans of democracy and human rights are no more than a cover for the final criminal aim which is now obvious to all, since the head of U.S. intelligence has admitted that a change of the Iraqi regime will lead to a new kind of conflict!

Now, is there a single honorable Iraqi who is willing to offer his neck and his honor as well as the honor of his wife, daughter, and children to be cut into pieces by the knives of the merciless scoundrels and scum? Would any decent person accept to face humble death or see his dignity and soul hurt by submitting to this U.S. plan, or would he pool his resources and resist on the basis that this is the only guarantee for salvation from death with deliberate humiliation; and in fact for safeguarding Iraq's unity, independence, and future?

The past five years have proven very clearly that resistance in any form is the soundest and least costly option. Besides, it is a guarantee for defeating the enemies. A comparison between the situation in Iraq and that in Yugoslavia confirms that the option of resistance and solidarity behind the symbol of Iraqi national honor, Saddam Husayn, is a major condition for final victory. It also confirms that any slackening, oversight, or submission to deception would be a tragic price which future generations would have to pay.

The Iraqi people have continued to believe in this option over the past five years. There have been mean years like which Iraq has never experienced before. We paid a heavy price in order to keep Iraqi honor untouched and clean. During those five years, Iraq showed absolute cooperation with the United Nations and expressed sincere willingness to hold a dialogue with the United States and solve its problems with it and others by cordial means. But the United States insists on dividing Iraq and humbling its people. Therefore, the Iraqi people have no choice but to resist until victory.

This realistic awareness of the nature of the U.S. plan in Iraq has made the Iraqi people choose the less costly and harmful course of resistance, although it is a difficult and painful one. This awareness has also made the Iraqi people tackle its leadership issue in a precautionary manner and from a future perspective. We are not now electing Saddam Husayn as president because we are exercising our democratic right only, but also because we are essentially exercising our right to defend Iraqi future. Without Iraqi unity, Iraqi steadfastness will not continue, and without Saddam Husayn's leadership, Iraqi unity will not exist. He alone has rallied the Iraqis around him regardless of their differences. Any other Iraqi leader would have been a factor of divisions and differences. Thus, every Iraqi has foregone all his personal interests and concentrated on protecting the unity of Iraq, saving the lives of millions of Iraqis, and preventing the disgrace of millions of others as a result of humble destitution.

Is the honor of a tribal chief more precious than the honor of great Iraq? If we are ready to die for the sake of a tribal chief, will we not make any sacrifice for the sake of Iraq and its future? Our standing behind Saddam Husayn today is a free choice; in fact, the highest form of freedom. [passage omitted]

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Sudanese Trade Minister Arrives on Visit

To Attend International Fair

JN0111093895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 31 Oct (INA)—Sudanese Trade Minister Muhammad Tahir Muhammad arrived in Baghdad today on a visit of several days to Iraq.

The visit comes at the invitation of Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih to attend the opening ceremony of the 28th Baghdad International Fair which starts tomorrow.

Meets With Finance Minister

JN0211214195 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov 2, INA — Iraqi Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir has met today with the Sudanese minister of trade and food supplies, who is currently visiting Iraq to take part in the 28th session of Baghdad International Fair.

The Iraqi minister reviewed the serious impacts resulted from the ongoing blockade imposed on Iraq naming some like the suffering of children, women, and elderly out of the sharp shortage of food and medicine. He also referred to all the achievements implemented by the Iraqis during the reconstruction and new building campaign using pure Iraqi potentialities.

The meeting dealt with discussing bilateral relations between the two countries and means of enhancing them in service of both Arab peoples interests.

Mr. Khudayyir has met as well with Senior Deputy of the Slovakian Economic Minister Marian Mujethen [name and title as received] and the accompanying delegation currently in Iraq taking part in the 28th session of Baghdad International Fair.

The meeting tackled the economic relations between the two friendly countries and best of ways for developing them in all fields.

Confers With Ramadan

JN0211215495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, received Muhammad Tahir Muhammad, Sudanese minister of trade and supply, who is currently visiting Iraq to participate in the 28th Baghdad International Fair.

Ramadan pointed out that the participation of fraternal Sudan on this level reflects the strong relations between Iraq and Sudan, which are characterized by continued development and expansion even under the blockade and its difficult circumstances.

He said that the states, institutions, and companies which took part in this fair will be given priority cooperation by the Iraqi institutions after the unjust blockade is lifted.

The vice president asserted that the Iraqi leadership insists on consolidating the Iraqi economy to undermine the blockade the United States is still imposing to achieve its evil ambitions and objectives. He pointed out that the great march will be crowned with final victory over all enemies and rancorous ones.

The Sudanese minister expressed the satisfaction of the Sudanese leadership and people with the distinguished relations with Iraq. He stressed Sudan's adherence to its national and pan-Arab positions which could not be undermined by any attempts. He also lauded the current progress in Iraq's march of reconstruction.

Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan also received Dr. Taha Tayih al-Nu'aymi, secretary general of the Arab Scientific Research Councils Federation.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed the importance of scientific research in development and in promoting economy, science, and education in the Arab homeland. He said that the Arab Scientific Research Councils Federation assumes a major and important responsibility of supporting the activities of Arab scientific research councils an those of other bodies that serve and enhance joint Arab action.

Dr. al-Nu'aymi thanked Iraq on behalf of the federation for its direct support and for the keen interest it shows in the federation and the other Arab federations which are a source of pride for the Arabs.

Egyptian Commerical Delegation Arrives for Talks

NC0311121195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (MENA)—An Egyptian commercial delegation headed by 'Isam al-Khashshab arrived in Baghdad today on a five-day visit to Iraq. The invitation came from Iraqi Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih.

Al-Khashshab told a MENA correspondent in Baghdad that the delegation will discuss how Iraq can meet its essential needs of food and medicine in accordance with relevant UN resolutions, "which allows the imports of food and medicine."

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He noted that before the embargo, the Iraqi market was the largest Arab market for Egyptian commodities and products.

The delegation consists of 11 members, including the delegation's head. They represent a number of Egyptian companies dealing with food and pharmaceutical industries and medical supplies and products.

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Rabin: Link Between al-Shaqaqi, Gaza Attacks Possible

TA0211163895 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Labor Central Committee is convening today to discuss the budget issue, but the prime minister, who attended the meeting, chose to address the terrorist attacks that took place this morning. Baraq Ronen reports live from Bet Berl:

[Ronen] The state budget is the main issue on today's agenda, but this is not the main thing on everyone's mind. Before joining the meeting, Rabin addressed the two bombings that occurred this morning. He said that the bombings followed a cataclysmic period and that we had been warned about the likelihood of terrorist attacks. His explanation of the attacks was one many of us have already guessed. Let us hear him:

[Begin Rabin recording] As we had been forewarned, radical Islamic elements must have planned and executed this terrorist attack inside the Gaza Strip. In the past month, we have had warnings about possible suicide attacks. Thanks to the closure and other measures taken by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the security forces, and the Israel Police, we got through the High Holiday season without terrorist incidents, although we had received warnings even then. The attacks may have been motivated by Fathi al-Shaqaqi's disappearance from the scene. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 2 November carries a related report on Rabin's remarks at Bet Berl. In a recorded passage, Rabin says: "Since the bombings were arranged and carried out in the Gaza Strip, we will again demand that the Palestinian Authority [PA].... [pauses] We expect them to take more efficient action in areas under their control. This refers to the existence of organizations and the execution of various attacks both inside and outside a PA-controlled area, in cases where the perpetrator and his cell come from a PA-controlled area."]

Protest Submitted to PA Over Car Bomb Attacks

TA0311055595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has criticized the Palestinians for not doing enough to prevent the suicide terrorists from carrying out yesterday's attacks. Yesterday, Israel submitted an official protest to the Palestinian Authority [PA] in which it claims that despite the many warnings received by the PA and Israel and the expectations of an attack after the murder of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the Palestinian Police have not taken enough steps to locate the terrorists who came from the autonomy area.

Israeli security elements believe that Israel should pressure 'Arafat to rein in the rejectionist organizations. They emphasize that car bomb attacks require lengthy technical preparations and intelligence gathering to carry out the mission, and that such attacks are not spontaneous operations of lone terrorists. Yesterday's attacks prove that the cadre of suicide terrorists at the disposal of the Islamic organizations has not dwindled. Consequently, the high alert in the defense establishment continues.

Syria's Claim on Delay in Negotiations Rejected

TA0311064295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel rejects Syria's claims that it has requested that negotiations between the two countries be postponed. Syria's foreign minister said in Vienna that Israel has proposed via Secretary of State Christopher that negotiations be delayed until next April. Jerusalem sources say that it is possible that the Syrians misinterpreted a discussion held in the prime minister's bureau in which the possibility was raised of delaying the negotiations with Damascus until April, at which time the implementation of the Oslo B agreement will be completed. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned that this issue was discussed recently and that Secretary of State Christopher had raised it in Damascus.

Sources in the prime minister's bureau emphasize that Yitzhaq Rabin is willing to resume the negotiations with Syria as early as tomorrow morning, but only on the basis of the understandings reached with Damascus, on which Syria has since reneged.

Commentary: Rabin, Peres 'Deluding Themselves'

TA0211111695 (Internet) 'Arutz 7 News Service in English 1 Nov 95

[Commentary by Yedidya Atlas, "an 'Arutz-7 correspondent whose articles have appeared in THE NEW YORK TIMES and other major papers": "What's the Alternative?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Several months back following the terrible bus bombing in Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres appeared on Israel TV. In response to journalists' questions about the apparently clear correlation between progress in the peace process and increasing terrorism, Peres once again came out with the government's favorite slogan: "What's the alternative?"

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The idea being, no matter how terrible things are, no matter how many people are killed, the opposition has no viable alternative to offer in place of the Rabin-Peres peace process. The Foreign Minister believes that there must be a sure-fire solution to any problem, it's just a question of give and take. Unfortunately, in Peres's peace process — which is characterized by too much process and too little peace — Israel is doing the giving and the Arabs the taking.

Last May, Peres met with leaders of the Council of World Churches. He reviewed the peace process, and stated that despite the PLO's basing its negotiating strategy on making complaints and creating an antagonistic atmosphere, Israel would forge ahead with the process. It was evident that, from Peres's viewpoint, a farcical peace process is better than no peace process at all. After all, "What's the alternative?" From the Rabin-Peres government's standpoint, the only alternative is war. Ergo, critics of their peace process must be for war.

However, both Prime Minister Rabin and Peres are missing the point. To quote the great fictional detective Sherlock Holmes: "The solution to a problem is to remove the impossible, and whatever remains, however improbable, is the solution." Applying "Holmesian" logic to our conflict, one arrives at the following axiom: When faced with a problem, one removes the impossible, and whatever remains, however unpalatable, is the alternative.

The alternative to the Rabin-Peres peace process is neither war nor necessarily peace. Life is not black and white and neither is the problem at hand no matter how simplisticly Rabin and Peres choose to view it.

Any mathematician knows, not every problem has a solution. Any historian can tell you that there are centuries-long conflicts still going on today with no solution in sight. Bosnia is just a current prominent example. Other examples no longer given the same media coverage, but whose conflicts continue nonetheless, include the Tamils in Sri Lanka and the Kurds in Turkey.

Despite all the hopes and wishes in the world, no matter how much the Rabin-Peres government convinces itself that it can achieve "Peace in our time," the reality it is ignoring portends a national tragedy for the Jewish People.

Aside from the insolvable religious conflicts that divide Jew and Muslim as each one approaches issues from frequently conflicting premises — our divergent views on the status of Jerusalem, for example — the first premise required to make peace with an enemy is for each side to view the other as a former enemy. No one can claim that Rabin and Peres have not embraced Yasir 'Arafat as not only a former enemy and negotiating partner, but even as a figure more important to them than segments of their own population. Sadly, however, reality screams out the obvious: 'Arafat is still the conniving terrorist chieftain he always was.

He has kept little or none of his written commitments to Israel and verbal commitments to the United States and the West. Whether his failure to change the PLO Charter, disarm any of the five terrorist militias operating in Gaza, his ignoring formal Israeli requests for extradition of terrorist murderers now in safe haven in PA [Palestinian Authority] territory, his documented misuse of donor-country funding, or his televised incitement to continued violence and bloodshed, ad infinitum — his violations are so rampant, only one suffering from extreme self-delusion could claim that 'Arafat is sincerely interested in making a real and lasting peace with Israel.

How can they ignore 'Arafat's recent declarations that he is just implementing the 1974 Fes "Phased Plan" (the dismemberment of Israel in phases), or his repeated public calls for Jihad (Islamic Holy War), or his comparing of the agreement with Israel to Muhammad's treaty with the Quraysh tribe — concepts every Muslim understands to mean that the Oslo accords are simply a temporary tactic to fool the enemy and not a binding agreement. Nonetheless, Peres can find no alternative other than continuing to make unilateral concessions for empty promises.

One of the primary declared objectives of the Oslo accords was to achieve a reduction in terrorism. In the two years since the Oslo accords were first signed, there has been a 73 percent increase in the number of Israelis killed by Palestinian Arab terrorists — including by members of the PLO, and even 'Arafat's Fatah faction — as compared with the two years that preceded the Oslo accords. The Rabin-Peres government cannot really fight terrorism as Israel once did, for fear of 'Arafat getting upset and breaking off talks. Yet with what can 'Arafat threaten Israel? A return to terrorism? Aside from the fact that he never really left it, what is his alternative?

Our nation's leaders have drained the national budget to sustain the PLO and the agreement with them. Why not concentrate the national efforts on absorption of the massive influx of immigrants and further development of the nation's socio-economic and educational systems, as a basis to instilling a sense of national goals and interests among the populace, rather than sacrifice all to an illusory and all too bloody fantasy.

The alternative for Rabin and Peres is to cease deluding themselves, face reality, and act accordingly.

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Rabin Reelection Said Most Important to U.S.

TA0111124595 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew 1 Nov 95 p 7

[Commentary by Amir Neumann and Daniyel Ben-Simon: "Meanwhile, the Window of Opportunity Has Closed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now that it is obvious that the negotiations with Syria will not be concluded during the current government's term in office, both sides are trying to improve their public relations image and put the blame for the deadlock on the other side. President Hafiz al-Asad blames Yitzhaq Rabin, and the Israeli prime minister blames the Syrians. The Syrians are wasting their time in this preliminary battle. With political proficiency, Rabin has managed to maneuver things in such a way that whatever happens he will have the upper hand.

Rabin has done the following: If Jerusalem succeeds in substantiating its charges, the prime minister will win all the points. But if Damascus manages to prove that Israel is the one responsible for the stalemate, then Rabin will win lots more points. The name of the game is, of course, the Israeli elections, and that is the main reason for the low heat in the negotiations between the two countries. The freeze in the negotiations with Syria, which are focused on the withdrawal from the Golan Heights, will improve the domestic political standing of Labor's candidate and will save it from the need to face a second domestic front.

This involves a strategic upheaval, which took place in the Israeli prime minister's mind several months ago. If, at first, Rabin — like many in his party — believed that if Syria is positioned outside the peace circle it will threaten the stability of the political achievements of his government, after peace with Jordan and the accelerated progress in the Israeli-Palestinian process, Rabin learned that the sky will not fall if Damascus is kept waiting.

There is also a domestic political aspect to the upheaval. The terms presented by Syria in the direct and indirect negotiations, which would have meant an accelerated process, would have harmed his chances — the prime minister apparently believed — of winning the next elections. The Israeli public is still busy trying to digest the Oslo accords. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] General Staff was first busy negotiating with the Palestinians, and is now busy with the process of implementing the agreement. The conclusion is that "the national reservoirs" have reached the red line and are incapable of salvaging the negotiations with Syria vessel from the sand bank.

Without saying so publicly, Rabin is adopting a foot-dragging policy on the Syrian front, using more or less bona fide procedural excuses. The old assumption that Syria is the main wall in the peace structure has been shown to be wrong. In the Amman conference, for instance, nobody missed the Syrians.

The time frame for the negotiations was clear last year. On the eve of Independence Day 1994, in an interview to DAVAR, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres mentioned late 1995 — with the start of the primaries in Israel and the United States — as the date when the window of opportunity in the north would be closed. The Israeli primaries have already begun and the political system is deeply embroiled in them. In two months, the race will start in the United States with the New Hampshire primary, and the distance between Washington and Damascus will look like that between Cape Kennedy and Mars. By next November, after the elections in both countries, there will not be anybody to talk to.

Al-Asad is aware of the timetable and Israel's domestic system. Talking to U.S. Congressman Tom Lantos early in the year (as quoted by YEDI'OT AHARONOT on 16 January) the Syrian president said that he is aware of the size of the opening in the window of bilateral opportunity and blamed the prime minister for wasting time. Al-Asad was wrong in assuming that he could give Rabin the winning card in the elections while ignoring that the contrary was possible.

It is obvious that the main link in the new strategy is winning Washington's cooperation. Without its blessing, the current move would have evaporated, and that might just be Rabin's chief achievement. He managed to tie the administration to his cart and to convince them that his reelection in late October 1996 is much more important than a hasty peace accord with Syria. The presidential effort in appeasing Hafiz al-Asad, the thousands of hours the U.S. State Department invested in the process, and the dozens of hours Christopher sat in al-Asad's palace, have therefore been pushed aside, at least temporarily. America's interest in the Middle East is now Rabin's reelection to a second term. The photo of the U.S. President and the Israeli prime minister in National Security Adviser Tony Lake's room is more than just an illustration of the mood in Washington's corridors of power. Rabin is considered an important political asset there and apparently has the power to shape at least a certain chapter in U.S. foreign policy.

Who would have believed that Syria, for years the main player in the Arab Rejectionist Front, would become the element prodding and pushing the peace process? Who would have believed only a year ago that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, a master of the peace process,

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would stress in his statements the risks involved in an agreement with Damascus? There are differences in nuance between him and Rabin, and Peres also says that he prefers peace to elections, but he will apparently not be the one standing for direct election of the prime minister in a year.

Warren Christopher's trip to Damascus this week was aimed at "reassuring" the Syrian president, and in the meantime, everybody is turning to the public relations battle front over the freeze in the process. But we should not be deluding ourselves. The new strategy contains many risks and its success is temporary. The daily reminder of the weakness of putting Syria in a waiting position comes from south Lebanon and the backing it gives to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activity. In the face of the American-Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian circle, Syria has been weakened, but it is obvious that without it there will not be any real peace here.

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Al-Asad, al-Hirawi Agree To 'Unify Foreign Policy'

MM0311094395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Al-Asad and al-Hirawi Decide To Unify Foreign Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Informed political sources have stressed that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi agreed during their meeting in Damascus yesterday to "unify foreign policy for this stage in order to confront new conditions in the region."

The informed sources described the al-Asad-al-Hirawi summit as "the most important summit," saying that "the two presidents decided to confront the challenges of this stage and the next stage by coordinating all positions, and not to leave room for any gap that may be infiltrated in Israel's favor." The sources added that "Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi drew up an overview for the new stage in all its dimensions, especially with regard to Lebanon, the peace process, and the initiation of diplomatic and political activities at the Arab and international levels."

The sources said that, in view of the continued Israeli threats, the southern [Lebanon] issue was at the top of the two presidents' priorities. And that President al-Asad stressed during the meeting that "Syria is fully willing to defend Lebanon and its sovereignty."

The two presidents also stressed the need to reinforce the internal atmosphere in Lebanon so as to contribute to strengthening and cementing national unity. Lebanese sources say that there was no tendency to change or reshuffle the present government, pointing out that the two presidents agreed to hold meetings of the Supreme Syrian-Lebanese Council soon

Lebanese sources have said that "the discussions dealt with bilateral relations, the peace process in the Middle East, the tense situation in southern Lebanon, and Israel's aims behind the military escalation."

Informed Lebanese sources said yesterday that the meetings held between the two presidents the day before yesterday settled the constitutional reforms issue in order to focus in the stage ahead on the election law and the classification of the constituencies so as to finish with this early in the spring in order to enable the candidates to launch their election campaigns.

More on 'Closed-Door' Meeting

JN0211194495 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi at al-Rawdah Palace at 1100 today. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. The meeting was followed by a closed-door meeting between the two presidents. [passage omitted]

President Hafiz al-Asad and President Ilyas al-Hirawi resumed their closed-door meeting following the luncheon banquet. The talks dealt with regional and Arab situations and the peace process in the region. President Hafiz al-Asad briefed President Ilyas al-Hirawi on talks he held with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Damascus.

The two presidents then reviewed cooperation and coordination between the two countries, as well as progress in the implementation of agreements between the two countries, voicing their satisfaction with this area.

The talks also tackled several issues of interest to Syria and Lebanon. President al-Hirawi voiced Lebanon's appreciation for Syria's support for Lebanon in terms of security, construction, and national accord.

President al-Asdad asserted that Syria will continue to do everything possible to help the brothers in Lebanon. The two presidents had identical views on all issues they discussed.

Qaddurah Discusses Arab-Israeli Conflict

JN0211184895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Valletta—Syrian People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah said that the reason for the Arab-Israeli conflict was Israel's occupation of Arab territories in successive wars of aggression and Israel's adherence to annexing these territories and building settlements on them.

Addressing the second parliamentary conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean Basin currently being held in Valletta, Qaddurah added that despite the great world developments in the 1980's, Israeli mentality and policy have not changed. The Israeli rulers are obsessed with rejecting the UN resolutions pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict, he said.

Qaddurah pointed out that these resolutions do not permit expansion, occupation of others' territory by force, annexation of lands, building of settlements, and violating the Geneva agreements. He also pointed out

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that by a Knesset decision, Israel annexed the occupied Syrian Golan and Jerusalem. This measure provoked the world. Likewise, the U.S. Congress' decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem provoked the world.

Qaddurah said that Syria has worked for spreading peace and stability throughout the world. It has always sought to implement the directives of President Hafiz al-Asad on turning the Mediterranean into a sea of peace and stability. He added that such peace and stability cannot be achieved under continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

He called for resolving the Cypriot issue through negotiations in accordance with the UN resolutions. He also called for lifting the blockade imposed on the Libyan people and ending their suffering. He added: In many international parliamentary and governmental meetings, Syria called for removing nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction from the Mediterranean region in accordance with Articles 32 and 33 of the final document of the first parliamentary conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean Basin out of its efforts to enhance stability.

Qaddurah said: It is also necessary for all states to join the 1968 treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear arms. It is also necessary for the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] to supervise nuclear installations. He pointed out that Israel has 200-300 nuclear warheads and that it refuses to sign the nuclear arms nonproliferation treaty.

He asserted that if Israel continues to enhance its military capabilities and to manufacture weapons of mass destruction, stability in the southern and eastern Mediterranean will be very doubtful. This is because security, cooperation, and dialogue cannot be achieved under occupation and aggression.

Qaddurah said: What has thus far taken place in our region is not peace or a gateway for peace because it did not emanate from international legitimacy or from ending the Israeli aggression, from withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, or from regaining the usurped rights.

The speaker of the People's Assembly said: It should be emphasized that there has to be a distinction between terrorism and national struggle. National struggle is a patriotic, ethical, and legitimate activity. It is acknowledged by all principles, UN resolutions, and international law. According to Israel's logic, resistance to the Israeli occupation troops by Arab residents in the occupied territories, the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon is a terrorist act. Whereas Israel's killing and displacing of thousands of Arabs and demolishing their houses and breaking their bones are not terrorist acts. This is a clear paradox which, if some continue to ignore, will lead to nothing but further violence.

Qaddurah asserted that relations among Mediterranean partners should be based on steady principles that should be respected by all. These relations must also be founded on all that may boost security in this region. This can be realized through abstaining from occupying the lands of others by force or threatening with or using force, working out a comprehensive and just settlement of conflicts and disputes, respecting the right of peoples to self- determination, full compliance with and implementation of UN resolutions, and fulfilling the tasks entailed by international law.

He added: Based on this, Syria has worked and is still working to ensure the success of the Middle East peace process, which Israel has persistently sought to cripple through ignoring Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace principle — the buttress and springboard of this process.

He further stated: When Syria advocates a just, comprehensive, and balanced peace — which does not reward the aggressor for his aggression — it advocates a peace that endures and provides stability and security in the region and the world.

He asserted that Syria is committed to peace that can be established only on the basis of full Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 cease-fire lines and from all the Lebanese lands occupied by the Israeli troops.

He said: Israel's lack of compliance with UN resolutions — despite the fact that negotiations have been taking place for four years — is a defiance, not only of Arabs, but also of the entire international community.

The speaker of the People's Assembly met on the sidelines of the conference with heads of the delegations of Russia, Spain, Malta, Egypt, Algiers, Tunisia, Libya, and Morocco. Discussions in these meetings dealt with coordinating stands vis-a-vis the final document of the conference and other topics listed on the agenda.

Amman Conference, Israeli Working Paper Assailed

JN0211175595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Nov 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Just as books are known by their titles, the Amman meeting that ended the day before yesterday is known by its title, which refers to the

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Middle East and North Africa. Although all the states of the region, except for two or three states, are Arab, the title of the Amman meeting does not refer at all to the Arab homeland, the Arab countries, the Arab world, or even the Arab region.

This title reminds the Arab citizen of those yellow winds that blew toward the Arab homeland last year to eradicate the Arabs' great house — the Arab League — to replace it with an alien body including Israel. This body was called the Middle East market, the Middle Eastern market, or the new Middle East, as the Israeli foreign minister says.

The question, however, is not confined only to the title of the Amman meeting that ended the day before yesterday. If we examine the economic projects that were the focus of the Amman meeting, we will discover that most of them centered on the infrastructure of the region's economy, namely, land, sea, and air communications, as well as energy. The Arab League's drawers are full of projects of Arab economic unity and the Arab common market, and some of them, like the Hejaz Railroad, whose committee has been meeting for over 50 years and whose rails and train wagons are rusting, were close to being an economic joke.

What was the overriding secret that has awaken these projects from their dormancy and even made new slight additions to them? However, this is not an overriding secret. It is just an attempt to insert an alien body, Israel, into the heart of the Arab homeland and the Arab family. So, we can say that we do not fear Israel or its alleged economic capability. We know the reality much more than imagined by Israel and those rumoring a certain Israeli economic capability. We reject anybody other than the Arabs in the Arab family, on the understanding that the Arabs may, at the same time, freely deal with any party in the world in light of the higher interests of the Arab homeland and the principles of the Arab nation.

It is known, of course, that Syria takes a certain position toward such meetings and projects that are intended to obliterate the Arab identity. This position, known well by everybody, prompts us to follow up, examine, and analyze all that occurs at these meetings, as well as working papers presented to them, out of our responsibility along with the other Arab brothers toward the Arab future.

Hence, we paused at the working paper Israel presented to the Amman meeting in order to see how the spirit of the old, defunct colonialism was being revived. The paper displayed much arrogance and haughtiness. According to the illusions of the Israeli working paper, Israel has brain, experience, superiority, and leadership, while the Arabs have nothing except physical effort and money.

The projects Israel presented to the Amman meeting divide the Arab homeland into triangles, with two Arab sides and an Israeli in each triangle. No two Arab sides can take any joint action without the Israeli side. So, Israel can act as a link between any two Arab parties and can also act as a diving knife between them.

All the Arabs, whether those who attended or boycotted the Amman meeting, were provoked by attempts to divide the Israeli-proposed business for the Middle East and North Africa into high technology products, to be supplied by Israel, and other goods, like textiles or oil byproducts, to be supplied by the Arabs, according to the title of the Amman meeting. This means that there would be more profit and a cleaner environment for Israel and less profit for the Arabs and that according to the Israeli paper, the Arab economy would be affiliated with and even dominated by Israel's economy, which has long relied on the Western economy.

These Israeli projects are economic settlements in the Arab economy, like the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories. Syria has warned of the dangers threatening the Arab personality, as well as of Israel's attempts to dominate the Arab economy and the future of peace in the region—peace which is not expected to be achieved as long as Israel does not abandon its indifference to the Security Council's resolutions. Just and comprehensive peace cannot be established and entrenched in this part of the world without an honest and total implementation of these resolutions.

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India

Oversights Claimed in Economic Policies

96ASO006A Jaipur RAJASTHAN PATRIKA in Hindi 20 Sept 95 p 8

[Article by K.C. Kulish "The Neglected Aspects of the Economic Policies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is a need for rethinking some important aspects of our economic system. The new policies will be easier to administer and the people will accept them better if we keep in mind the existing system while forming new economic policies. Agriculture should form the base of our economic policy, and the base of agriculture is water. We have concentrated on industrialization. It is not wrong, but too much emphasis is not right. The reason for this is that nowadays the industries run on automatic machinery which do not require human labor. The second reason is that the production of these industries is not for life sustaining products but for conspicuous consumption. Our biggest need is providing for the daily necessities. The target of whatever economic policy we form must be to provide for increased production of food, clothing and places of residence, better education and provision for medical services. We should also give some thought to utilizing indegenous technology while adopting foreign techniques where required.

Water Is Life

Giving priority to agriculture is due to its importance in supporting life. It provides the necessities of life. Water supports agriculture and other life sustaining activities. Vedas have said "Water is everything" meaning this world was created from water, it is sustained by water and it will also disappear in the water. In colloquial lenguage it is said that water is life. One of the words for water in our language is life. Inspite of this admonishment from the Vedas, we have given greater importance to fire. Water includes fire but the chemical fertilizers are pure fire. For once it seems, it makes the soil yield more food but finally it leaves it unyielding and useless. Our soil should not become completely useless, therefore, we should think from now on, that we should stop the use of chemical fertilizers and use all our resources into getting water. We shall have to face the shortage of water only in the coming drought. Predictions are being made that if another world war takes place, will be fought for water only.

We need to think extensively about water. Top priority is to maintain the safety of our present resources. For example maintaining the safety and upkeep of lakes be given to village panchayats (local councils) by law. In our country, every village had at least one lake. Lately they are disappearing. Along with the lake there were wells for drinking water. Although drinking water delivery through water tap is good, the wells should be maintained. The catchment area of the lakes should also be maintained and a fine should be imposed for creating any obstructions in this area.

Apart from the lakes, regular flow of the rain water should not be disturbed. Generally, we have seen that not enough consideration is given to this water flow problems while laying down new roads and rail lines. These water flows maintained the particular use of the land around it that cannot be maintained. We should provide for the use of rain water around the year. Similarly, the ground water should be surveyed and used properly. The meaning of saying all this is that we should make water a limb of our economic policy. It loses importance when we consider it as one part of the limited resources.

Distortions in Textile Policy There is need for new thinking in the textile production in our economic policy. India has been a top textile producing country for hundreds of years however in the last few years there are great distortions. These distortions have come about because of the clothes made of the petrol. This is not desirable. Cotton and silk textiles were produced in our villages. Excellent craftsmen, every one better than the others used to produce the best clothes in the world. Dying and printing work also kept many of them busy all the time. However textile machinery was introduced during the British rule and many textile mills were established in large cities like Bombay, Ahmedabad, Kanpur, etc. These mills established a good reputation in the world markets and they also clothed the indigenous population. If there is any distortion in this picture, it is because of the fact that majority of the owners did not reinvest the profits in new machinery or in developing the business and the profits that they made were either taken home or in starting some new business. They took advantage of the depreciation allowance in the income tax accounting but they did not utilize the capital to apply it to the mills. The result was that those old mills became outdated and useless. The capitalist owners are not interested in selling textiles and would rather sell the land. (on which the mill is standing.) A fall in administrative standards also contributes to the mill owners taking care of their own selfish ends. The owners do not take the responsibility for sick mills, they point to the labor whenever the government asks them the question, just as Muslim soldiers used to keep cows in front of their army in war with Hindus. Similarly, many

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mills have been given to the government. The owners are not very interested in running those that are still running. The government must adopt some tough measures in respect to these.

The first step will be not to allow any mill owner to sell the land belonging to the mill. Ask for accounting of all the allowances taken in income tax for depreciation and wear and tear of the machinery. These allowances should be deducted from the price of the land. The mills that have been closed in the name of being sick should be reopened. The only way they can remain open is by making sure that they be banned from producing finished cloth. The textile mills will be used only for spinning. producing finished cloth, dye work, printing, embroidery all other work be given to craftsmen trained for such work. Other mills who are still producing finished cloth, be restricted to produce for the export market only. Home use of textile products be restricted to those produced by handloom or electric looms installed in homes. This way, millions of unemployed laborers can be put to gainful work and the problem of unemployment can be solved. All our need for clothes can be satisfied with (individually operated) looms. We can satisfy all our need for good looking, fancy and fashionable clothes this way. New licenses should not be issued for any new chemically produced, meaning made with petroleum products textiles. Those mills that are engaged in producing polyester, nylon, terrylene clothes should be gradully placed under controls and that way end their production. A great amount of publicity should be given to the fact that these clothes made from petrolium based products are harmful for the body. Shortfalls in the (artificial) textile productions be made up with cotton and silk production. Present deformations can be removed by making fundamental changes in the textile policy. Infinite employment opportunities can be generated which cannot be created any other way.

Impractical Gold Policy One of the neglected facets of our economic policy is gold. On the one side, our people's, mostly our housewives' great love for the gold, second the country's need for gold for foreign exchange and thirdly completely impractical gold policy of the government. The gold policy of the government is so self defeating that it does not yield any good results at this time. On the other side it encourages thievery. In 1962-63 there was a time when it was decided to punish any one holding more than five tolas (approximately 12.5 grams) gold in his possession. Slowly this gold control was made less restrictive to last year's budget when any Indian living out side the country can bring up to 5 km of gold but he has to pay Rs 500 [rupees] for each 10 grams as customs duty. The question is why these restrictions on the purchase, sale and export of gold? It is not clear what the economists and political controllers are thinking but one thing is clear that no income tax is levied from anyone exporting gold. This concession is because of the fact that those exporting gold are earning dollars. The question arises why not consider gold equivalent to the dollars? Why restrict me from bringing a ship full of gold? Didn't we pledge the gold in the Bank of England, moving it from the Reserve Bank only for this purpose? Does a citizen do harm or good of the country when he brings gold into the country? It would be better if the import, sale and purchase of gold is completely free from restrictions. Let there be an announcement that anyone wishing to bring the gold in to the country is free to do so and no additional duty will be charged on it. Those within the country can purchase as much gold as they wish and no questions will be asked for the origine of the moneys involved. Economists and political leaders can say what they like but it is certain that the gold reserves within the country will be increased. Gold reserves can be useful to the government for the right use and can be used for the good of the country. Our country owes a foreign debt of approximately 300,000 crores (Rs 3 trillion). We can use this gold reserves to pay off this debt. Today in this country the most profitable business is that of land. People do not have a place to live. The housing shortage is increasing with the increasing population. The government can play an important role in reducing this housing shortage. The government owns all the land. It can develop millions of acres of land and can sell it to the public in exchange for gold at cost or at some discount prices. Our housewives have shown that they can part with their own jewellery and bangles for land or home. The people will willingly exchange gold for land. This can go on for ever. This will transfer the business of land from few professional operators to the government. There will be no shortfall of taxes. And the gold will accumulate in the hands of the government which can be used to pay for the foreign debt. Along with this, even the black money will be used in paying for the nation's foreign debt. By taking the accumulation of gold in the hands of the government it can reduce the foreign debt substantially. At least, give it a try. Think about it.

Income Tax and Black Money. The distortion of the Indian economic policy is not that the country has an income tax but we sould be ready to try a new experiment. I have said this before many times that

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let us, for a time experiment having no income tax. It is not good to consider this tax as a good source of income for the government. In a country, two thirds of whose population is uneducated, where majority of the traders do not use banks for transactions and do not pay income taxes, that country's economic system must be designed differently. Even the government accepts that a parallel economy exists in India. This means that not only the black money is distributed by not paying income tax, but it is used to operate the whole business and used even to pay for the house hold expenses. Black money has its own system and it is also very convenient. With black money, I can buy clothes, steel, cement, wood, sugar, grains, vegetables, fruits every thing at reasonable prices. The meaning of this is that the black money is stronger than the white capital and the government is powerless to stop it. The government itself is dependent upon the black money. Black money is useful for fighting elections. In this situation, to continue with the income tax seems like a joke. If we finish off this tax once, all the capital within this country will be used for investment. The dynamism that this investment will produce will pay off many times the lost income due to the loss of Income tax. Once we should experiment like this. If a policy is formulated keeping in mind the existing conditions of the country then it will surely succeed.

Economist Looks at Falling Value of Rupee

96AS0007B Jaipur RAJASTHAN PATRIKA in Hindi 29 Sep 95 p 6

[Article by Balraj Mehta: "Why the Falling Rupee"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Indian rupee is under pressure and is losing its value both inside and outside the country. India's economic restructuring began in the middle of 1991 with a sharp devaluation of the currency. This action had reduced its buying power at home too. At this time the rupee is going through a similar cycle.

In fact, the situation causes concern. Is the Indian economy facing the same crisis? Are the problems of balance of payment and probability of economic development dim? This is not a mere coincidence that the international liberalization of economic policies based on entirely wrong assumptions, and adopted in a hurry with great fan fare are facing serious trouble.

Formal Devaluation

The 1991 devaluation of the rupee was a formal administrative decision. This decision was necessitated due to the need for foreign loans, to satisfy the conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund, and to properly handle the balance of payment situation. The rupee is falling pray to uncontrolled market conditions and faces devaluation again, and the government and its administration are watching it helplessly. They are incapable and do not want to stabilize the value of the rupee in relation to foreign currencies and its declining buying power at home.

It is strange that at the time when economic policies were officially proclaimed as progressive and grand, and the foreign reserves were on the increase, the Reserve Bank intervened to tactfully control the internal foreign currency market to maintain the value of the rupee. Now when the foreign reserves stand at an impressive $20 billion, and the economy is said to be on the path to progress, the Reserve Bank and the finance ministry are indifferent, and justify the devaluation relative to market conditions.

The foreign reserves reached a new high during the last four years and specially during 1992-93 and 1993-94. It is said that the foreign cooperative loans, direct and indirect foreign investment, funds deposited by non-resident Indians, and the policy to properly handle the foreign loans contributed to this success. Use of these reserves for domestic and economic development was not permitted. This resulted in an uncontrolled trade of the rupee in India market which sky rocketed the prices and market speculation reached dangerous proportions.

Problems for the Common Man

These conditions gave birth to many problems for an average person. The prices shot up drastically. The share market attracted personal savings on a large scale but investment in public and private sectors for economic and infrastructure developmental purposes remained slow. The official policy in the name of stabilizing the prices actually slowed the economy.

A heavy price was paid to enhance the foreign reserves and to stabilize the currency after its 1991 devaluation. Domestic savings interest rates slipped, foreign and domestic debts kept on increasing, and touched new highs. In fact, 1991 was the year when in the name of planned socioeconomic priorities the path to developmental self sufficiency was substituted by market oriented liberalization and was internationalized.

During the recent past, India has become more dependent on foreign investment for its economic development. This development has no place for the social pertinence. The issues of public welfare and security have been kept out of bounds of this economic development process. Routine foreign investment in India or in any

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other developing country is subject to certain conditions. These conditions provide guarantee to the foreign investors to unrestricted usurpation of local markets and labor, to maximize the profits, and the freedom of remitting the national wealth to their parent countries.

It was but natural for the rupee to weaken and be helpless after the liberalization and globalization process. Any effort by the Reserve Bank to stabilize the value of the rupee would be successful only if the foreign reserves remained untouched, and the productive economic schemes are controlled.

Emergence from Sluggishness

It is noteworthy that several years after the period of sluggishness that emerged as a result of the implementation of the new economic policy, preliminary indications of industrial slowness are now noticed. This immediately brought the rupee rate of exchange under pressure. Shortage of dollars in the market to pay for the imports for industrial needs created a problem. The importers panicked in search for dollars and it became a crisis. The Reserve Bank's decision to not use the foreign reserves for the repayment of foreign loans and interest, and to seek dollars from the open market ignited the issue. These reasons caused the devaluation of the rupee.

It is certain that the rupee will be devalued because the income from exports is less then the increasing cost of imports. With the devaluation of rupee the problem will compound as the income from exports will bring in less dollars and imports will need more dollars. Exporters may benefit because the available tax exemptions on exports will result in more rupees for them in exchange for their dollar earnings. But for imports importers will have to pay more rupees. In every case the pressure of devaluation will explode the cost of living and prices.

The alternate to devaluation is to rapidly drain the foreign exchange reserves. This will be not acceptable to Rao government during an election year. Because the government while publicizing its economic policies took pride in the successful accrual of foreign reserves is now following a policy to slow economic development. Therefore, an economic decline will result due to devaluation of the rupee.

The fast devaluation of the rupee has demonstrated the extent of external pressure on Indian economy, and to open it to market forces is imprudent. Because these forces work in collaboration with the competitive interests of the developed countries. The market forces cannot be and will not be beneficial to the current socio-economic development of Indian interests. The objective to fulfill social goals is miles away. The market and domestic forces needs to be tamed to satisfy the needs of the people. A majority of the people is destined to live a life away from the boundaries of those forces. Those who argue that the rupee should float on its own in the world markets are in fact the advocates of foreign wealth and wants to keep those doors wide open. They consider foreign wealth as the principle tools for economic development and modernization. They do not see the need to increase the rate of domestic savings, an increase in the production capabilities, and the use of successful management for economic development and social progress as primary tools. They even do not assign priority to stabilize rupee's domestic buying power.

For Whom Are the Reserves?

Foreign exchange reserves are important. They should be laboriously earned and maintained instead of being refurbished by external loans. Foreign exchange should only be used as a supplement to domestic resources to increase the beneficial returns for socioeconomic developmental schemes. But to keep that resource idle and not use it is also indicative of poor planning and short sight. It is similar to not using the domestic resources for production because of the available inadequate and effective financial resources.

Nation Said Not Yet World Economic Power

96AS0007A Jaipur RAJASTHAN PATRIKA in Hindi 30 Sep 95 p 4

[Article by Tavlin Singh: "No Nation Regards India as a World Economic Power"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I have always been an unhesitant admirer of Senior Minister Lee Kuan of Singapore. I admit, I was a little swayed at the thought of first seeing and hearing him. The occasion was the dinner at the inauguration of the Eastern Asian-European East-West Convention in Singapore last week. The convention was organized by the World Economic Forum. The dinner was planned in the large ornate banquet hall of the Sangrila Hotel. The hall was full of dining tables. These tables were decorated by expensive white silk and pearls. Influential and rich people from the east and west inhabited these tables.

Suddenly the whispers in the hall subsided. The guests started to look for their seats. I heard someone announcing: "We welcome the distinguished minister Lee Kuan Yew." The hall lit with the flash lights. We all stood up but it was impossible to get a glimpse of the minister due to television and reporters around him.

At last he stood up to speak. For the first time I got a look at him. Several times I have wished that this person should have taken birth in India in lieu of some of our

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leaders. We would then be amongst the rich nations of the world instead of being a poor country. Lee Kuan Yew appears to be a lean and thin man. His gray hair makes you think that you are about to hear an old man but this fallacy lasts only until his voice strikes you. In fact the minister's voice is sharp and deep. A voice that you expect of a young man. His speech is clear and in reality it is very effective. It is completely devoid of ambiguity, unnecessary, and nonsensical words.

In contrast, our leaders talk in unmeaningful terms for the first ten-fifteen minutes. Only after that it may be ascertained as to what they are trying to say. Lee Kuan directly addresses the subject. "In the context of balancing the buying power, East Asia already produces 25% of world production. Barring any large scale changes this region will continue to be the most progressive financial region of the world for the next 25-30 years. If the average annual regional growth rate of Eastern Asia continues to be 5-6% for the next three decades then by the year 2025 total domestic production of this region will be about 40% of world production. This total domestic production will be twice that of the northern America or will equal the total domestic production of the United States and Europe taken together."

After mentioning these facts he cited the Chinese example. He said, "if the Chinese annual rate of growth continues to be 7.5-8% during the next 20 years, then in year 2020 it will surpass the total U.S. domestic production. How will the United States deal with the issue of inducing China into the world markets before it becomes an industrial power will largely decide their international relations. To curb Chinese progress in reaching its place in the world may be to induce hinderance in its reach to world markets, finances, and technical know how. This will compel China to adhere to copy right laws, to recognize patents, to follow correct engineering practices and not to indulge in illicit commerce. In brief, China will work on it own conditions. This can impede China's progress but cannot stop it in becoming an industrial power."

In the context of the future changes in the balance of industrial powers between the eastern and Western countries, Lee Kuan, in his learned analysis did not even once mentioned India. This may make you sad. The Indian industrialists present in the conference provided some answers. Some said that he (Lee Kuan) opposes India ever since Indira Gandhi's time. He was never friendly with Indra Gandhi. Others said that the reason for his opposition to India is his belief that India lacks the discipline to enforce its will to be progressive.

Whatever be the reasons, it was clear after two days of speeches that India is still not considered a world class industrial candidate. Our minister of finance tried his utmost to keep our aspirations high. In a special Asian-Indian session he accepted that during the first years of this decade and before the beginning of the fiscal reforms Indian record reflects a story of "missed opportunities". He announced India's intention of writing a new chapter in the fiscal history of India. Later in a session fully devoted to the infrastructures, he tried to attract the investors, by saying that India needs to reconstruct its entire infrastructure. This basic scheme includes airports, railways, roads and ports. The finance minister expressed the need for increasing the investment for this development from 6% to 10% of domestic production. He said, "I hope that the members will realize that in India at this time several other industrial and agricultural revolutions are underway. India desires to play an active and significant role in the world economics."

Sadly, the truth is quite different. The rest of the world is not very encouraged. They are interested in more information on national developmental schemes. The vehement opposition to the Kentucky Fried Chicken issue puzzles them. Clearly stated, the cancellation of Enron issue has jolted them. They are unable to understand if India has fully developed its thoughts. They also indeed do not have time to sort it all out. They have other countries and other markets to think about.

To name just Burma and Cambodia is enough. I participated in the session on Cambodia. The session was chaired by its prime minister crown prince Narodham Ranshidhi. He made it very clear that the Cambodian Government is "market friendly" and welcomes investment from anywhere in the world. To clarify the statement his officials used slides and data. This method of presentations can be very beneficial for our state governments. Our chief ministers on their visits to the far away countries even do not have a working itinerary. Why should someone invest in their states? They generally lack in convincing arguments or facts.

Unfortunately our biggest problem is the lack of leadership. It is true that in our country sometimes we see miracles. We have gods who like to drink milk. But we are not able to produce a single leader capable of guiding us on the path to development. It baffles you when you visit eastern Asia. In fact, eastern Asia is rejuvenated due to the vision of illustrious leaders like Dung Zhao Peng of China, Mohammed Mahatir of Malaysia, and the previously mentioned Lee Kuan of Singapore. These three had envisioned and proposed the first "miraculous economic reforms" for this country. The world consid-

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ers this economic strategy as the correct strategy for the 21st century.

Where does India measures up against all this? Will we still continue to discuss the intrigues of the world economic process? Will we continue to argue that we do not need potato chips, we need computer chips. Will we come out of our sleep and recognize the world realties? It should be realized that we cannot sit waiting for some visionary leader to appear.

We will have to depend on the changing needs of the people. We will have to be more vigilant. Me and you will have to think where we erred and eastern Asia soared. In its absence we will be destined to be the most under developed and poorest country in the 21st century.

Muslim Women Seen Trapped by Koranic Injunctions

96AS0004D Jalandhar PUNJAB KESARI in Hindi 22 Sep 95 p 8

[Article by Arun Shourie: "Are All Doors of Freedom Closed for Muslim Women?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is a dispute as to whether or not a divorced [Muslim] woman should be provided living expenses and a normal societal position. Claims are always made contrary to facts and unbridled, hostile, and insulting treatment is repeated. In response, legal books are cited and references are made to the top scholars of the Shari'ah. They cite not one, but 20 books.

Suddenly the tone may change; "These are only the decisions of religious scholars." Others say, "They have interpreted the Shari'ah law wrongly. Shari'ah is whatever is included in the Koran and the Hadith." Please observe how fast they reject the same people—Abu Hanif, Imam Shafi, and Imam Malik—who were considered the symbols of Islamic scholarship and ideal of justice. Our debating friends are quoting one or two sayings of the Prophet to oppose their explanations, books, and articles. Divorce is the most hateful action in Allah's eyes. Those among us who treat our wives well are the good people.

Similarly, scores of the Prophet's teachings and quotes are referred to. The supporters somersault from here to there. They say, "The Hadith literature is clearly unbelievable and the solid base is provided only by the Koran."

The fact is that the two Hadiths they have referred to are from the same books which have ten times more Hadiths included in them. Second, if we ignore hadiths as unbelievable, then the second pillar of Shari'ah, which is Islam itself, known as Sunna or views of the Prophet, will also crumble. The original source of Sunna is the Hadith collection. These tell us what the Prophet said about a specific issue or had done in a specific situation. If the Hadith is ignored then almost the whole Shari'ah also goes. From among the 6,000 teachings in the Koran, only 60 relate to personal Muslim laws. Many of these teachings have never been followed.

For example, the Koran instructs that corrupt action must be proved by presenting four eye witnesses. This instruction has not been followed even from the time of the Prophet. There are some of the teachings that cannot be followed. For example, one verse about inheritance decides the shares of all relatives. The sum total of all parts should be equal to one, however, it adds to more than one. How can property many times more that the actual property be distributed among one's heirs?

Let us for a while accept the reasoning of the supporters and take a look at the Koran. Does the Koranic view of women, as opposed that of men, consider women's rights, situation, and duties same as the supporters claim it to be? Does Islam give women highest level of authority? Does it support protecting their rights?

"Your wives are your fields," says the Koran (Verse 2.233), "therefore, go to your fields as and when you wish." Are wives just fields for their husbands? Can they "plow" or "not plow" them or "irrigate" or not "irrigate" them? There is not ambiguity about the meaning of this verse. The question is asked, "Abu Sayyed, I have some female servants who are better than my wives, but I do not want them all to become pregnant. Should I have ajal [sexual intercourse without ejaculation] with them? Not just another scholar, the Prophet's own companion says, "These are your fields, you can irrigate them if you want. If you do not want to irrigate them, leave them dry." (Imam Malik, Muvatta Hadith 1221).

The verse further says, "However, first you must do some good deed for your soul." The supporters will not get much relief from this "good deed." We learn that the verse just tells that "before entering your field" the husband should read a mantra so that the "irrigation" process is not hurt by Satan (Sahi al-Bukhari, Section 1, p 105; Section 7, pp 70, 122-123).

"And the women will have the rights which are fair to them," said the Prophet, but enjoins, "However, the rank of men is above them." (Koran 2.228). The basic opinion remains the same. For example, Allah announces again: "The men are responsible for overseeing the affairs of the women. That is why Allah has given preference to them over women and that is why he spent his own money. Good women are, therefore, obedient and protect secrets. Allah is seeing it all and if there is suspicion about some women being rebellious, you must

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admonish them and reprimand them. You should confine them to their beds and physically beat them. If they obey you after that, then do not take any more action against them. Allah is above all and is omnipresent." (Koran 4.34).

I hope that those who claim that Islam is the only religion which had given equal position to women, will read the both verses cited above. "Men rank above women." "Men are above women, that is why Allah has preferred one above the other." "Good women are obedient." "...and if there is suspicion about some women being rebellious, you must admonish them and reprimand them. You should confine them to their beds and physically beat them...."

This is not attributed to a common scholar, not even the Prophet; it is what Allah himself said. Because of this fundamental principle, men are allowed to have up to four wives at the same time. In addition they can have as many mistresses as "your right hand can control." (Koran 4.3). That is why while the mahr (dowry) clearly belongs to the bride, there is a loophole, "...and (at the time of the wedding) give the mahr as a gift to the woman, however, if they willingly want to return part of it to you, accept it with pleasure." (Koran 4.4). After a few verses, Allah repeats with more emphasis, "Once the mohar has been decided upon, and you mutually agree to make changes, you will not be blamed at all." Seeing this "kindness," no wonder that it has become a fashion to settle on heavy mohars. It is a common practice that during the night of the wedding the bride is convinced to give it all back.

The position of men and women is further clarified: "Men are women's supervisors because Allah has made them superior to women." Because of this basic directive while the daughter has a right to her father's property, but only half of the son's share (Koran 2.11; 4.12, 175). Women of other religions can rise above this inequity; however, Islamic women cannot do that. This inequity—daughter's share being half of the son—is not included in any other legal book. It was decided in the Koran itself, therefore, it must be maintained indefinitely.

If a man decides to take his wife back after throwing her out in anger, drunken state, or temporary insanity, it is the woman who has to suffer the insulting ceremony of halalah (divorced woman marrying the same husband again). She has to offer herself to another man during the marriage and sleep with him. In other words, she is completing this marriage by sleeping with the other man and then getting a divorce from him. That is when she becomes halal [same as kosher] to her first husband and can return to him with her children. This practice is the most atrocious of all and has been abused severely by the Prophet and his associates. It has been used by the ulemas for 1350 years as well as now. The reason for this is clear. This law is not included in any common legal book; it is in the Koran (2.230).

This is the Islamic position on women and their appropriate place in society. The Prophet had implemented it very strictly. Only one example should be enough.

There is not a common scholar with whom the supporters could disagree by saying something. As Ram Swarup writes, it was al-Ghazali himself who tell us that there are thousands of qualities and women have only one of them and the remaining 999 belong to men." This is not the opinion of an unimportant scholar, but the opinion of the most influential among Islamic religious scholars. He said that because of Eve's disobedience and woman's corrupt character, Allah had punished them 18 different ways. These include: menstruation, pregnancy, labor pains, separation from parents, marrying a stranger, burden of divorce, inability to initiate divorce themselves, men having four wives while women having to be satisfied with only one man, the value of women witnesses being only half of men witnesses, half as much inheritance as of brother, and so forth. How much weight can the supporters of today have in comparison to what a man of al-Ghazali's status says?

In brief, when legal books of top Shari'ah scholars are referred to, supporters quickly dismiss them. They say that these are man-made laws and measures. All decisions will be made according to what the Prophet and Sunna have said. When scores of examples from the Hadiths are presented to them, they also dismiss them and say that they will follow only the Koran.

That is fine. Here we have presented verses from the Koran. Do these agree with the claims made by these supporters that Islam gives high status to women and protects full rights for women?"

Iran

Kharrazi Tells UN of U.S. 'Economic Terrorism'

LD0211214095 Tehran IRNA in English 2128 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations Hq. (New York), Nov. 2, IRNA — Iran's permanent ambassador to the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi, said here on Thursday [2 November] that the U.S. has embarked on economic terrorism against Islamic Iran by preventing the World Bank from granting loan to Iran. He called on the world community to take measures to stop the U.S. from exploiting international organizations for its own

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political ends by trying to disrupt the process of economic development of an independent state.

The World Bank has withheld from Iran several loans worth dlrs. 600-700 million drafted earlier for development projects thereby causing shelving of development plans in education, livestock breeding and environment protection including the vaporization program at the oil wells.

Although the World Bank loans area a very small part of the national development plan, but, the policy of economic terrorism should be condemned by the world community especially by developing countries, said Kharrazi.

He deplored the Clinton government's pressuring of international monetary agencies regarding dealings with Iran and said that threats of economic boycott against countries who do not follow the U.S. policy is a clear proof of Washington's economic terrorism.

Asked about the effects of the U.S. trade embargo on Iran, he said that as independent sources have confirmed Clinton's decision has resulted in losses for U.S. companies including laying off workers, which means that the American loss has been higher than what Iran was designed to suffer.

He said the U.S. trade embargo, has not only not much affected Iran's econmic development, but, on the contrary, it has helped boost national support, further integration and adoption of proper economic policies to accelerate the drive towards self-sufficiency.

International organizations have admitted the success story of Iran's development plan. Even the World Bank in its report last week took note of the economic growth in the Islamic Republic and said Iranian development plans have brought about infrastructural economic reform and an integrated economy.

Paper: U.S. Embassy Move U.S. Political Incompetence

NC0311105795 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY) in English 26 Oct 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Money, Power, and No Finesse"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. Senate has voted a bill to the effect that the U.S. Embassy in Israel be transferred from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Sponsored by Senate majority leader and Republican presidential candidate, Robert Dole, the bill was initially introduced because of Zionist pressure groups.

In the first instance, the move will deal a strong blow to U.S. credibility as an impartial mediator in the peace process. It is also anti-UN, because UN resolutions call for the withdrawal of Israel from occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

The city has a special status for Muslims, Christians and Jews. Muslims have a right to East Jerusalem as much as the Jews have a right to pray at the Wailing Wall. To move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem sanctifies Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem and desecrates Muslims.

This is not in harmony with peace. This once again shows U.S. political incompetence. With one hand the U.S. signs peace agreements; with the other hand it slaps Muslims, Palestinians and Arabs in the face.

Whether this move is for Mr. Dole to gain votes or to raise money from American Jews for a presidential campaign it indicates that America will never grow up and design a harmonious policy on world events.

To make matters worse, at a gala symphony concert celebrating the UN's 50th anniversary, Yasir 'Arafat was tapped on the shoulder and informed that he was not invited.

Even Beethoven would not have approved.

This problem has existed ever since the United States became a world power: money and power in the hands of unseasoned politicians with little or no political finesse. So long as the United States continues to have little political wisdom, so long as the U.S. puts money and Jews above human and humane values, the world will not be at peace.

U.S. Reaction to Saudi Mideast Bank Policy Viewed

LD0211223695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 2 Nov 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. undersecretary of state, Robert Pelletreau, Wednesday November 1, at the start of his trip to southern states of the Persian Gulf, arrived in Saudi Arabia. In his meeting with the Saudi King Fahd he submitted a message from the U.S. President Bill Clinton and conferred on joint issues with him. It appears that one of the most significant subjects discussed between the two sides was related to the Amman economic session, ended on Monday October 30. Nonparticipation of a number of the Arab states, including Riyadh, in the establishment of the Economic Development Bank for the Middle East and North Africa were cases which irritated the White House because that government, through establishment of this bank, intends to strengthen the development projects of

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the Zionist regime and to boost its economy while the southern Persian Gulf shaykhdoms not only have no particular motive to take part in the establishment of the Middle East Development Bank but [also] regard it as an imposition of an unnecessary burden on their ailing economy.

Meanwhile, the existence of six financial institutes in the Arab states, including [Saudi] Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates, which contributed to the implementation of the Western governments's economic projects, has resulted in those countries regarding establishment of the Middle East Development Bank as a rival.

Meanwhile, with the failure of the U.S. state secretary, Warren Christopher's negotiations in Damascus, Washington is apparently aiming to increase pressures born on Damascus through the southern Persian Gulf shaykhdoms, especially Saudi Arabia, because those shaykhdoms, by using financial levers, can exert pressures on the Syrian negotiator.

Meanwhile the issue of Iraq's situation has always been a subject of discussion between the two sides, especially that over the last three months, following the defection of Saddam Husayn's relatives to Jordan and holding of presidential elections in Iraq, no changes have occurred in the conditions of those countries. At present Washington and Riyadh are unanimous over the continuation of economic sanctions imposed against Iraq. But the two sides are on the increasing pressures because of the hunger and sufferings inflicted on that country's people as a result of the persistence of these embargoes. This is at a time when Saudis have continued to raise the issue of self-defense against the contingent threats from Baghdad, devolving its protection to America. And this issue has led to increasing Washington's influence in Riyadh. Due to this dependence it is not expected that Saudis may have a good resistance ability, vis-a-vis the U.S. demands, including on the so-called Middle East peace talks and establishment of the Development Bank for the Middle East and North Africa.

Editorial Supports Demonstrations in U.S.

NC0211091995 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 21 Oct 95 p 1

[Editorial: "The Blacks of America: The Birth of a New Power"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The massive demonstrations by 1.5 million black Americans in front of the White House was a clear show of power. While America's mass media downplayed the demonstrations and reported that apparently only 400,000 people attended, the size of the crowd could not be ignored. Even if we assume the figure was 400,000, demonstrations by so many people must have made the White House and Congress officials in America tremble.

The demonstrations by 1.5 million American blacks had all the special characteristics to prove their "organizational power." The most natural conclusion that could be drawn from this incident was that it proved the "birth of a new power" from among the oppressed American black society.

Official figures put the black population at 27 million. But reports by independent sources estimate 40 million. The clear meaning behind this is that official circles are intentionally tampering with statistics concerning the blacks and are supplying a smaller number so that they need not grant them the rights they justly deserve. This is at a time when, even according to official figures, social benefits are not justly distributed among black society.

Although black Americans are suffering racial discrimination and are being unjustly deprived of social benefits such as housing, education, employment, capital, and so on, the massive Washington demonstrations had greater, more valuable objectives. The moral dimensions of the blacks' demonstration were felt strongly. The Washington demonstrations were largely religious and spoke of the birth of a new power with a clearly religious identity.

Let us not forget that the blacks have been suffering racial discrimination in every aspect of their life for the past 400 years because of the poisonous political-propaganda atmosphere against them. This has found the blacks normally considered to be the "condemned stratum," not simply the deprived stratum of American society. This means the poisonous propaganda has helped to remove the "social trust" shown to the blacks and deprived them of jobs, scientific achievement, and the primary opportunities in life.

Recent developments show that black Americans are trying to gain their true position and are striving to define a new identity, something they have been deprived of for four centuries. [passage omitted]

The Washington demonstrations proved the birth of a new power of blacks, because, despite the efforts of American leaders, the blacks themselves have come to realize their capabilities and potential and believe they can succeed in their social struggle and find the path they have chosen leading them to a stronger black American society.

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Kharrazi Denounces U.S. Embargo Against Cuba

LD0211231895 Tehran IRNA in English 2223 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations Hq. (New York), Nov. 2, IRNA — Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi said here today that the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba violated the principles of the UN Charter and the rule of international law, and that it was the right of any country to select political, economic, social and cultural systems of its choice without interference in any form by another state.

Speaking at the 50th session of the United Nations General Assembly here today Kharrazi referred to the hostile U.S attitude towards other countries and said the world community should not remain silent about a situation where cetain states engage in economic terrorism and try actively to undermine the economic or political stability of another state, in order to impose a specific political and economic structures on that country.

Like other members of the international community the Islamic Republic of Iran advocates the removal and elimination of all economic and trade embargoes imposed upon Cuba and believes that the differences between states should be settled in a peaceful manner, expressed Kharrazi.

He added that despite the end of the cold war and the dawn of a new international environment, certain states regrettably continue to adopt unilateral measures and actions against other countries.

Describing such economic policies as "hostile" and based on "short-sighted interests" of those who claim a predominant position in the world the Iranian representative called such policies absolutely contrary to the provisions of the charter as well as principles of the international law embodied in various international instruments and documents in particular in the universal declaration of human rights, the international covenants on economic, social and cultural rights, the universal declaration on the eradication of hunger and malnutrition.

Paper Answers Question on 'Political Games'

NC2710221995 Tehran SALAM in Persian 12 Oct 95 p 2

["Special Answer to a Telephone Call" column]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Unidentified caller] We ask all the political groups and the esteemed officials to stop their political games because the only outcome is to harm the Islamic system.

[SALAM] It is not clear what this dear caller means by political games. Unfortunately in the [Majles's] fourth-term elections, some people accused others of resorting to political games in order to portray themselves as being guiltless. And although they were fighting over power and their intention was not God and the interests of the system and of the revolution, they alleged that basically political groups and formations work against the interests of the system. The result was that a large part of society came to believe that the clergymen from both factions were fighting against each other for worldly things and not for God. And today there are many who, in a bid to justify themselves, say: We don't belong to either faction. We don't belong to any group, and we are neither rightist or leftist. Some have even gone so far that they say, out of neglect, that basically speaking there are no two lines or two groups, that everyone is saying the same thing, and that it is only friendships that have split them into two groups! [passage omitted]

We would like to tell this dear caller that if you are worried about the Islamic system being harmed, you should know that your assessment that all the political groups and officials are involved in political games and are not thinking about the system is itself the biggest harm that can be done to the system. We should also add that there are some people too whose interests lie in a society not having any official political groups and formations so that the people can be dispersed and so that they can better use the people for their own purposes.

Al-Shaqaqi Assassination Described as 'Dastardly'

NC0311062695 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 30 Oct 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Blood of the Martyr to Escalate the Struggle"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The secretary-general of the Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine, Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, was assassinated in a cowardly act of terrorism by the agents of Israeli Intelligence Service (Mosad) on Thursday [26 October] in the capital city of Malta.

Al-Shaqaqi was born in a Palestinian refugee camp in Gaza in 1951. In early 1960s, he took part in political activities and, in 1968, he joined the Islamic Jihad Movement. In the same year, al-Shaqaqi entered a medical school in Egypt, and, while studying, worked in Al-Motalla hospital in Jerusalem. He graduated from medical school in 1981 and returned to Gaza in the same year to establish a clinic there.

The leader of the Islamic organization was twice imprisoned by the occupier regime of al-Qods [Jerusalem] in

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1983 and 1986. He was exiled to the Southern Lebanon in 1988 on the charges of supporting the Palestinians' movement in the occupied territories. His wife, Fathieh, and his three children were also expelled from Gaza last July.

The martyrdom of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi will deprive the Zionist forces of peace and quiet throughout the occupied lands, since the path of struggle and resistance against the Zionist terrorism will be followed by all Palestinian combatants.

The assassination of al-Shaqaqi, the most renowned combatant in the Islamic Palestinian land, is a major blow to all liberation movements in the world. Such a flagrant act, master-minded by the Zionist occupier regime, is a token of determination by the international Zionism to liquidate the leaders of liberation movements all the world over. The Zionist regime, fostering state terrorism, reveals its true image to the world by resorting to dastardly acts of terrorism.

The martyrdom of the leader of Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine points out the fact that the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy is the only way to liberate the Palestinian territories and the holy places. Such bloodshed will also add to the will and determination of the oppressed Palestinians to cut off the criminal hands of the Zionist terrorists and their mercenaries and hirelings.

No doubt, the blood of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi will fan the flames of all-out struggle against the Zionist usurper regime. The brave followers of the path of Palestinian revolution will continue their resistance until the goals of their revolution are fulfilled.

It is incumbent on the international community to condemn the Zionist state terrorism, which is the only source of tension, instability, and criminal acts in the region.

Ban on Paper, Moves To Renew Publishing Detailed

NC2810141795 Tehran SALAM in Persian 22 Oct 95 p 3

[From the Newsdesk]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the orders of the Khorasan Province Ministry of Justice, the Law Enforcement Force in Mashhad sealed the office of the newspaper TUS and thus prevented its publication.

The Ministry of Justice issued the order banning TUS—the editor in chief of which is Mohammad Sadeq Javadi-Hesar—in accordance with a clause in Article 31 of the press law that oversees Articles 30 and 31.

Ostensibly, the order states: The reason for the ban is to implement measures to proscribe the publication of the newspaper. This applies to the first edition after the issuing of the order. It is appropriate therefore that the offices be sealed and a pledge be submitted [not to publish].

The editor in chief of TUS spoke to SALAM: According to Articles 30 and 31 there is no specific complaint or complainant against this newspaper and there is no dossier for its prosecution either.

He added: It has been explained in the law that an edition can be disseminated after such an order is issued but now all the doors of the office have been sealed and no attention is being paid to my complaint on the grounds that this is an illegal action and one edition should be allowed to be published after the pledge is submitted.

The editor in chief of TUS stated: All my efforts to contact the Mashhad Ministry of Justice and Siyaqi, who issued the order, have proved futile. I even went to Siyaqi's office but I could not speak to him.

He added: Today I contacted Siyaqi's office so that he might order the unsealing of the newspaper's offices but he refused to see me or give any answer.

According to Javadi and despite the protests, even if we were to accept the order, only one specific edition of TUS should have been banned. But now publication of the newspaper has been suspended.

He continued: The intelligentsia is aware of the losses to the newspaper by such action.

Concluding his remarks, the editor in chief of TUS requested the Law Enforcement Forces unseal the newspaper office premises and added: The [Law Enforcement] officials stated that this would require orders from judicial officials even though resumption of the publication of the newspaper does not require a new license.

Pakistan

Paper: U.S. Official Expresses Support for Taleban

LD0211161495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. assistant secretary of state, who is now in Islamabad, has expressed her support for the Taleban group.

An Urdu-language Pakistani newspaper wrote today that Ms. Robin Raphel, after meeting the deputy foreign minister of Pakistan, said: In the civil war in Afghanistan the United States is to support the Taleban

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group. Ms. Raphel's statement was made shortly after she said, in her meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto, that the United States wants the urgent restoration of peace in Afghanistan.

Official: U.S. Expected To Refund F-16 Payment

BK0311043995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has informed the United States that it expects the United States to refund the full amount paid for F-16 planes, keeping in view the principles of justice and equity. This was stated by Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh in response to queries at a news briefing in Islamabad today. He said the steps to be taken in the near future to benefit from the prospects created by the Brown amendment, were discussed at talks between Ms. Robin Raphel, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, and Pakistani officials.

'Terrorists' Kill 15 Persons in Karachi

BK0211112995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] National Assembly began discussion on the president's address to the two houses of parliament on the 29th of last month. The discussion was continuing when it rose to meet again on Sunday afternoon.

The interior minister, Retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, informed the house today that 15 innocent persons of a family were killed last night in Karachi by terrorists. Speaking on a point of order by Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Shafi, the minister reiterated that the government will not allow the terrorists to play with the lives of innocent citizens and appealed to the opposition not to support those indulging in terrorism.

According to agency reports, 15 persons were killed in the execution style killing by terrorists. The terrorists lined up the men against the wall with their eyes blindfolded and shot them dead with machine guns.

Sri Lanka

President Warns of LTTE 'Reprisal Attacks'

BK0111152795 Hong Kong AFP in English 1419 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 1 (AFP) — Sri Lankan security forces Wednesday [1 November] braced for the deadliest phase in a battle to capture the rebel-held town of Jaffna as a humanitarian crisis involving tens of thousands of war refugees unfolded.

Some 7,000 government troops made slow progress and advanced less than a kilometer (half a mile) towards Jaffna, the final bastion of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the military said.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga told state run radio on Wednesday that the current offensive was the biggest military drive aimed at capturing Jaffna and warned that there could be rebel reprisal attacks in the capital.

"The LTTE attacks in Colombo will also be in proportion to the intensity of the offensive in Jaffna," Kumaratunga said adding that police have arrested "two dozen LTTE hit squads" here making it more difficult for the rebels.

The government also brought in tough emergency regulations that would allow the authorities to confiscate property of those who collaborate with Tamil Tigers in the capital and its suburbs.

The military, troops in the Jaffna peninsula captured another key intersection called Neerveli-Kopai junction, just south of the town of Neerveli they took from the rebels on Monday.

A military statement said the army toll in the battle for Neerveli rose to 79 soldiers dead, with more than 135 rebels claimed killed. "Troops are in the process of consolidating defences in newly captured areas," the military said.

The army's new defence lines are about seven kilometres (4.3 miles) away from the municipal limits of the Jaffna town which has been under LTTE control for over five years.

Military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said the fall of Neerveli, where the rebels had their newly-formed air wing and an underground hospital, was a serious blow to the separatists but the army expected more fighting.

"We expect more close quarter battles at (the small towns of) Urumpirai, Kopai and Kondavil. The bloodiest fighting is yet to come," Munasinghe told AFP. The three towns serve as part of the defences of Jaffna.

Aid officials said tens of thousands of people were leaving the Jaffna town and its suburbs and pouring into make-shift refugee camps in the southern part of the peninsula where there had been no fighting except for a few air strikes.

Chief government administrator in Jaffna, K. Ponnampalam, who is currently based in Colombo, claimed that 46 civilians were killed in air and artillery attacks on Tuesday.

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There was no word from the military about the report but President Kumaratunga has described Ponnampalam as a hostage of the LTTE.

Aid officials said the situation in over crowded refugee camps could get desperate with the onset of monsoon rains in a few days. Already diarrhoea has broken out at one camp.

Despite the civilian exodus from Jaffna, the Jaffna hospital and its immediate neighbourhood which is declared by the International Red Cross as a "safe zone", was crowded with people, aid workers said.

Military spokesman Munasinghe acknowledged that the army's casualties had been heavy and the rebels were offering very stiff resistance. The army lost 208 killed and nearly 1,000 wounded since the latest drive was launched on October 17.

Military claims killing 830 rebels and wounding over 1,500 Tigers during the same period.

Retired airforce chief Harry Gunatillaka said he expected the army's advance to be even slower as they get nearer to the town, a heavily built up area, where there could be intense street fighting.

"The inter monsoon rains have already set-in and in a few days the monsoon will break out in all its fury. Then it is going to be more difficult for the army and they may even get bogged down," Gunatillaka said.

The Tigers are leading a protracted campaign for a homeland for Sri Lanka's two million Tamil minority in the northern and eastern regions. Over 50,000 people have died in the bitter guerrilla struggle in the past 23 years.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1512 GMT on 1 November adds: "The Sri Lankan government on Wednesday announced the closure of government schools with immediate effect as a military campaign against Tamil separatists escalated in the north of the country.

"The cabinet Wednesday decided to advance the December holidays by one month because of a threat from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) against school children, a government official said.

"'There are intelligence reports that the Tigers may try to kill a lot of children to provoke a backlash against Tamils in Colombo. If that happens, troops will have to be withdrawn from the north to maintain law and order here,'" a police official said."]

'Major Reprisal Campaign' by LTTE Reported

BK0211104395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0945 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Nov 2 (AFP) — Tamil guerrillas killed 12 security personnel in diversionary attacks in northern Sri Lanka as the military geared for more fighting in their bid to take the rebels' stronghold of Jaffna, officials said Thursday [1 November].

A pressure mine of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) went off in the northern islet of Kayts late Wednesday, killing 10 army troopers and wounding two others, military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

LTTE guerrillas also blew up two navy vehicles at the nearby islet of Karainagar, killing an officer and a sailor and wounding four other navy personnel, Munasinghe said.

Both Kayts and Karainagar are government-held islets just west off the northern Jaffna peninsula, which is the theatre of the military offensive. The main naval base in the north is located in Karainagar.

The attacks came just hours after LTTE militants killed eight police commandos in the east, and appeared to be part of a major reprisal campaign by the Tigers for the military's campaign.

A total of 221 security personnel have been killed so far in the army advance on Jaffna codenamed Riviresa (Sunshine), which was launched 16 days earlier. The military says it has killed more than 830 LTTE fighters in the same period.

The LTTE is battling government forces to establish an independent nation in the northern and eastern regions for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils.

LTTE Chief Vows To Fight On

BK0211051895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0441 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI Nov 2 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers have vowed to continue the guerrilla war, even if their northern stronghold of Jaffna falls to advancing government forces, a rebel leader said in a published interview here.

But Anton Balasingham, chief theoretician of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), told the Indian magazine Outlook that the Tigers were ready to talk conditional peace with Colombo.

"Colombo is under an illusion about winning the war," Balasingham said in the interview which took place last

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month at Jaffna, where the LTTE has set up a de facto independent state since 1990.

"Even if they take over Jaffna, it will not be a military success," he said. "The (Sri Lankan) north-east is a vast area and our guerrilla movement cannot be crushed in conventional battle.

"The Lankan forces can take over the territory. But they cannot hold on. We will strike back," he told the weekly, whose correspondent reportedly travelled to Jaffna from Colombo.

The magazine hit newsstands Thursday [1 November].

Sri Lankan troops are advancing on Jaffna which they hope to capture from the LTTE, one of the world's deadliest guerrilla groups. The army has sent infantry backed by armoured cars and artillery.

Balasingham, a former journalist, told Outlook that the LTTE was stronger now than in 1987, when Indian troops struggled for weeks to take control of Jaffna from the Tigers.

"As a guerrilla movement, we do not attach any metaphorical or symbolical importance to any place," Balasingham said. "We attach importance to mobility. The LTTE will not talk from a position of weakness.

"Military pressure will not force us to talk. Concentrating only on the north actually means that the (island's) east is virtually free for us. We are not going to keep quiet there."

Balasingham dismissed Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga's proposals to grant autonomy to the Tamils as a way to end the conflict.

He said her autonomy package "talks of peace through war. It is aimed at deflecting the international community's attention from the ongoing repression and genocide in the north.

"But if Colombo decides to stop the war and settle for a negotiated settlement, we are prepared to accept it," the LTTE leader added. "We have even suggested that a federal form of autonomy is acceptable to us."

Balasingham denied that the LTTE assassinated former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991. Indian authorities said a Sri Lankan suicide bomber was responsible.

The LTTE and other former Tamil guerrilla groups once enjoyed sanctuary in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, which is separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow strip of sea.

LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran lived for four years in Tamil Nadu until January 1987 when he returned to Jaffna.

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